

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 18 April 2023

By: Chief Operating Officer

Title: Scrutiny Review of Procurement of Social Value and Buying Local – Observations on the Scrutiny Committee’s report

Purpose: To provide the Cabinet with the opportunity to comment on the response of the Chief Operating Officer to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Procurement of Social Value and Buying Local.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. note and welcome the report of the Place Scrutiny Committee; and**
 - 2. advise the County Council that, in considering the report of the Scrutiny Committee, the Council be recommended to welcome the report and to agree the response of the Chief Operating Officer to the recommendations and their implementation as set out in the action plan attached as appendix 1 to this report.**
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1. Background

1.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on 23 March 2022 agreed to establish a Review Board to undertake a Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local. The scope of the review encompassed an examination of improving the Council's current approach to social value in procurement and Buying Local initiatives. It particularly examined how social value and Buying Local initiatives can be used to achieve the Council’s objectives and support action on climate change and a sustainable local economy. The review also examined and commented on the draft Social Value Policy (subsequently agreed by the Lead Member for Resources and Climate Change) and the Orbis Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy.

2. Supporting information

2.1 The Scrutiny Review of Procurement: Social Value and Buying Local is welcomed by the Department and in particular the opportunity afforded by this review to examine possible improvements in policies and procedures and explore how the Council could take the next steps in moving to a more qualitative approach to meeting social value requirements in contracts and procurement.

2.2 The Department’s response to the Review Board’s recommendations is set out in the action plan attached at appendix 1.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Scrutiny Review has highlighted where further work may be needed in this area and a way forward in developing the Council's approach to social value.

3.2 It is recommended that the Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the action plan as detailed in appendix 1.

ROS PARKER Chief Operating Officer

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LOCAL MEMBERS

ALL

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None