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Title of meeting:	Cabinet
Subject:	Social Value Annual Update
Date of meeting:	5 March 2024
Report by:	Director of Corporate Services & Assistant Director Procurement
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Steve Pitt, Leader
Wards affected:	All

1. Requested by

1.1 Report requested by Cabinet.

2. Purpose

2.1 To provide an annual update on the activities being undertaken across the organisation and with our suppliers to deliver social value to the people and city of Portsmouth.

3. Background Information

3.1 In the Cabinet meeting of March 2021, the council's social value policy was formally adopted. As part of the implementation an indicative plan was presented to act as a guide to the key activities needed year on year to achieve a fully embedded and mature approach that delivers demonstrable benefit to local communities.

3.2 This report provides an update on activities undertaken in the past twelve months, activities planned for the next twelve months to provide assurance that the council remains on target in delivering social value to the city and its residents.

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4. Information Requested

4.1 Activities over the past twelve months include:

- 4.1.1 Following the success of the Shining a Light on Social Value Conference in 2022, a follow up conference, Broadening the Horizons of Social Value, was held in February 2023. The event brought together suppliers, council services and voluntary sector beneficiaries. The event was interactive and provided an opportunity for connections to be made and relationships to be formed, as well as a coming together in partnership for the collective benefit of the city.
- 4.1.2 The output from the conference provided greater clarity on areas of priority where social value could deliver the greatest benefit and has informed subsequent approaches which are outlined below.
- 4.1.3 A key area of focus has been on our learning disabled communities and a range of activity has been undertaken as follows:
 - 4.1.3.1 A series of workshops are currently underway with council services and suppliers with a focus on employment opportunities for the learning disabled. These are ongoing.
 - 4.1.3.2 The city council is facilitating a supported internship programme working in partnership with City of Portsmouth College (learning provider), with work placements both within the council and with our suppliers and providing accommodation for a supported learning space within the civic office.
 - 4.1.3.3 Following the success of Lily & Lime in the Central Library, run by Minstead Trust, the council has partnered with Lily & Lime for the provision of a café in the civic office, accessible to all building occupants. The café opened in June 2023, initially for short days over three days per week. However, the café has proved to be so popular that it has twice expanded its offer and is now open 5 days per week for a longer day. The café provides a supported environment where people with learning disabilities can develop skills and train for qualifications that enable them to progress to full employment.
- 4.1.4 The council have developed and implemented a revised contract management and procurement toolkit which is now being embedded into business as usual activity. These toolkits will provide the council with a greater ability to seamlessly monitor and report on social value indicators being achieved against the commitments made by suppliers. A list of

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current known commitments and their proxy financial value is set out in Appendix 1

- 4.1.5 It is however worth noting that, while it is important to track and monitor key performance indicators and assign proxy financial values against these, the Portsmouth Model of social value has, from the outset, been focused on the direct benefit and positive, tangible impact to individuals and communities in the city. A good example of the Portsmouth Model in action saw the donation of over 250 Christmas gifts from among our supply chain for our most vulnerable children and families in the city experiencing hardship at Christmas in 2023. Other examples of the Portsmouth Model in action can be seen in the case studies set out in Appendix 2
- 4.1.6 Recognition of the Portsmouth Model came in the form of winning the *i*ese Gold award for procurement in 2023. The *i*ese award 'recognises the pioneers in procurement who are using to deliver as much of their strategic agenda as possible, maximising the value to their partners, businesses and communities'.
- 4.1.7 In addition to embedding the toolkits and facilitating brokerage between suppliers and beneficiaries work has also underway to streamline processes and remove bureaucracy wherever possible. The grants process is one such area where the process has been reviewed making it easier for grant applications to be made and processed whilst remaining compliant with financial and procurement rules.
- 4.2 Going forward the council will continue to develop and embed social value with the following planned activities:
 - 4.2.1 Ongoing work to drive social value commitments into all contracts, as well the creation of a central reporting tool to monitor and report on delivery of social value to the city.
 - 4.2.2 A further series of supplier workshops are planned in the next twelve months with a focus on environmental commitments and employability, particularly for specific groups and in alignment with council aspirations around City and Council of Sanctuary, our Armed Forces Covenant, Care Leavers and other target groups.
 - 4.2.3 Work will continue to develop the council's digital channels for the promotion of social value such as the web site, as well as looking for further opportunities to streamline processes and make use of digital technologies that in turn create capacity for social value activities.



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4.2.4 In line with our continuous improvement approach, work is planned to roll out the carbon footprint measurement tool - developed by the council's climate leads - to partners and suppliers to enable measure of carbon reductions as a social value indicator.

The council will continue to take its own actions in support of social value for example in promoting apprenticeships among its own workforce (currently 207 apprentices employed by the council), continued support of the supported internships programme with a new cohort of learners and working with the Minstead Trust to maintain the café provision in the council's civic office. Ongoing reviews of best practice within Section 106 Employment and Skills Plans to ensure that development across the city focuses on best value within plans, focusing on local employment/apprenticeships and work experience appropriate to the delivery schedule.

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Signed by (Director)

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Social Value Commitments

Appendix 2 - Case Studies

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Agenda Item 12 - Social Value Policy	Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021, 12.00 pm Portsmouth City Council
Iese Awards Categories and winners 2023	Public Sector Transformation Awards 2023 IESE Local Government and Public Sector Consultants



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