

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

24 January 2023

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor Young (In the Chair)

Councillors Brown, Clayton, Hargreaves, Lindridge and Loynes

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director,
Beverley Bearne, Assistant Director, Development and Growth
Michael Beirne, Principal Economic Growth Officer
Steve Hilton, Senior Public Relations Officer
Israr Hussain, Economic Growth and Regeneration Manager
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

29. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Feeney

30. Declarations of Interest

None

31. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2023 were received.

32. Procurement Social Value Statement of Intent

(Managing Director)

Type of decision

Non-Key Decision

Purpose of report

To ensure that Social Value principles are applied in a way that enables the council to maximise economic, social and environmental benefits for Hartlepool and its citizens.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

A report had been considered by this Committee in March 2022 following the approval by Full Council of a Motion which approved the following:-

- *Every proposal for capital expenditure will now come with an economic impact assessment that will give a detailed estimate of how many Hartlepool based jobs the proposal will create.*
- *Procurement procedures for the authority are reviewed and reformed to improve the social value of all tenders/quick quotes, including trebling the value weighting for social value to 30%, which is fixed.*
- *The use of 'fire and re-hire' within the authority is banned and that the council will actively promote those local employers who similarly refuse to use this disgusting practice.*

The Committee had considered the third bullet point and had approved a proposal to set up an officers working group to explore the remaining two elements of the Motion.

The Managing Director advised the Committee that the Statement of Intent, detailed in the report, ensured that Social Value principles are applied in a way that enables the Council to maximise economic, social and environmental benefits for Hartlepool and its residents. It was reported that through the Statement of Intent the Authority would drive social value to be at the forefront of minds when delivering services, leading by example.

It was explained how the direct and indirect benefits of a capital investment, would be quantified in terms of producing and monitoring Economic Impact Assessments. The Managing Director clarified the rationale for the report not advocating this be undertaken for all capital works but would be undertaken for major regeneration projects. The Statement of Intent would be imbedded within the Contract Procedure Rules and set out aspirations, which are aligned to the Hartlepool Council Plan. It was noted that the Public Services Act core requirement is that the Council needs to consider Social Value in its commissioning and procurement activity and the report provided guided principles for officers to follow as well as setting out how Social Value will be captured and monitored going forward. A number of key activities would be implemented which were set out in the report.

It was proposed that this be the first phase of the development of the Council's social value policy which would focus in the first instance

on commissioning and procurement practices and review the effectiveness of this.

Appreciation was expressed of the background work involved in preparation of the Statement of Intent which was considered to be 'far reaching' and within the 'spirit of the Motion'. The Managing Director responded to clarification sought from Committee members and agreed that the number of jobs that will be directly or indirectly created from the proposed capital investment project should include wording 'in Hartlepool' within those quantifiable terms. Also In the tender evaluation processes, Social Value of 10% would be allocated to the overall score and it was suggested that increased weighting should be given to social value. The Managing Director highlighted that local businesses had been consulted and there was a balance to be achieved between value for money and cost considerations for local businesses. It was suggested that a minimum social value of 10% be applied for social value, the situation be monitored and a further report be submitted to this Committee in 6-8 months.

Decision

The Statement of Intent was referred to the Finance and Policy Committee for adoption within the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, subject to amendments detailed above.

33. Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022 – Action Plan (Assistant Director – Development and Growth)

Type of decision

Non Key Decision – direct consequence of a previous key decision, Forward Plan reference CE 80/22

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an updated version of the Action Plan for the Inclusive Growth Strategy 2022-2025 and seek approval prior to adoption and publication.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

At the Economic Growth and Regeneration Committee on 19th July 2022 the Inclusive Growth Strategy and Action Plan, setting out Hartlepool's economic priorities and growth in the coming years, had been presented after extensive consultation with local stakeholders and businesses. The Committee had discussed and agreed with the content and themes of the strategy and ten point plan, members did however ask for more detail in the accompanying Action Plan, in particular clear and detailed targets and timescales. A revised version of the action plan had been presented to Committee on 29th

November, however there was a debate about the robustness of any target setting as some members considered this may result in unrealistic targets, given the uncertainty of the economy at present.

A further revised version of the action plan had therefore been produced with some format changes to ensure targets and timescales are clear for members. It was highlighted that although targets had been developed to be as ambitious (yet realistic) as possible, they are likely to be impacted by on-going uncertain economic conditions that are outside of the Council's Economic Growth Team's control. Tabled at the meeting was a copy of the Action Plan in infographic format. It was highlighted that progress had been made against the Action Plan as a result of the recent successful Council bid to the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 for 'Catalysing Hartlepool's Screen Industries Production Village'.

In response to a Committee member reiterating comments she had made at meetings of the Committee earlier in the municipal year regarding the functions of the Committee, the Managing Director provided further assurance to the member. It was highlighted that the recent feedback report following the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge had recommended that as the Committee system had been operating since 2013, it was timely to review the governance system and scheme of delegation and ensure that decisions are made at the most appropriate forum.

Decision

The Committee approved, with no dissent, the updated version of the Action Plan

The meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 27 JANUARY 2023