

Bolsover District Council

**Extraordinary Meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on 8 September
2022**

Review of Integration of Social Value to BDC Policy and Delivery

Report of the Chair of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

Classification	This report is Public
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To present to Scrutiny the completed report for the recent Review of Integration of Social Value to BDC Policy and Delivery

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Growth Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a Review of Integration of Social Value to BDC Policy and Delivery, as part of the 2021/22 Work Programme.
- 1.2 As part of the call for review suggestions for 2021-22 municipal year, Members of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee were presented with the suggestion of reviewing our approach to Social Value and how we could further integrate this to the Council's policies and service delivery. The suggestion came direct from the Development service and Members agreed to complete a review alongside other work carried over from the previous year.
- 1.3 Development of our approach to Social Value and implementation of a Social Value Policy will support key objectives within the Business Growth Strategy.
- 1.4 This review has come at a time when the Council is under increasing pressure to not only ensure value for money from our investments, but also seek to secure additional benefits and impact from our programmes and developments.

1.5 Members have welcomed the opportunity to work with our fellow scrutiny Members in Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee in reviewing our approach to how we evaluate our social value outcomes and we hope the new software tool will allow the council to evidence its outcomes more clearly to residents and partners.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 The aim of the review was:

- To clarify how the Council can integrate Social Value within the delivery of the Business Growth Strategy, and other core strategies as determined.

2.2 The objectives agreed were:

- To review how social value can be integrated in to current policy and delivery based on best practice examples.
- To investigate how the Council can maximise the social value benefits of the Coalite development, with specific emphasis on skilled jobs, and how this can be applied to other development sites within the District.
- To assess how wide the social value strategy should be developed, engaging with other service areas/Scrutiny Committees as required.
- To assess how the integration of social value could be supported by developing a 'cooperative council' approach.

2.3 The key issues identified for investigation were as follows:

- The Council needs to be able to evidence the benefits of investment and ensure the economic, social and environmental needs of the area are being addressed.
- The Social Value evaluation methodology is already used by the Partnerships team and could be used more widely by the authority.
- The Council can secure additional social value benefits for the area through s.106 agreements agreed as part of planning permissions. Members question if we have a system in place that enables us to evidence this to its full potential.

2.4 The Committee met on six occasions in total and sought evidence by way of:

- Internal enquiries to establish existing policies and monitoring processes
- External review of approaches by other authorities
- Review of possible evaluation software options in conjunction with officers leading on procurement and the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Committee have put together six recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in embedding social value in to the wider policy structures and operational delivery of the Council.

3.2 The key findings arising from the review are:

- The council is well placed to move forward in this area, following initial integration of social value by the Partnerships team;
- The draft Policy produced is in line with national guidance for such documents and mirrors those of best practice authorities;
- The procurement of a social value calculator tool has been robust with significant officer and Member input.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Due to the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, the Council must seek to bolster compliance and refresh the approach to securing social value outcomes. As such a 'do nothing' approach is not a viable option.

4.2 Executive could choose not to endorse the recommendations of the review, where they feel the course of action recommended is beyond the delivery capacity of the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee endorses the recommendations of the review outlined in section 2 of the attached report.
2. That Committee submits the report to Executive for approval, in accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference – Part 3.6 (3) of the Constitution.
3. That following approval by Executive, monitoring of these recommendations by Committee takes place over a twelve month period via the PERFORM system with an update report to Committee at the end of the monitoring period.

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The purchase of the new Social Value evaluation tool has been subject to a separate decision process and the costs are accounted for.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no staffing implications from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	None
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Relevant Service Managers and Portfolio Holder engaged during the review process.

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.

The review supports all three of the Corporate Ambitions:

Our Economy:

- Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills

Our Environment

- Reducing our carbon footprint and supporting residents and businesses to reduce their footprint
- Actively engaging with partners to benefit our communities

Our Customers:

- Actively engaging with partners to benefit our customers
- Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people

Development of our approach to Social Value and implementation of a Social Value Policy will support Corporate target ECO.01 - Deliver a Business Growth Strategy by March 2021 that will support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills and makes the best use of our assets.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
3.1	Review of Integration of Social Value FINAL

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).

Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.