

From: David Whittle- Director of Strategy, Policy, Relationships & Corporate Assurance

To: **Commissioning Select Committee**

Subject: **Update on the agreed Action Plan in response to the Recommendations of the Commissioning Select Committee 'Better Outcomes, Changing Lives, Adding Social Value'**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: Countywide- all divisions affected

Summary:

This report provides an update on the action plan which was agreed by Cabinet and presented to Scrutiny Committee in September 2014, in response to the recommendations of the Commissioning Select Committee, 'Better Outcomes, Changing Lives, Adding Social Value'.

Recommendations:

The Select Committee are asked to:

- 1) Note the progress against the action plan
- 2) Agree the proposal to continue to review progress against a number of the recommendations

1. Introduction:

- 1.1 The attached action plan (**Appendix 1**) has been updated to reflect KCC's progress in response to the Select Committee Recommendations. As can be seen good progress has been made over the past 9 months, particularly in relation to delivering the key strategic documents and frameworks for the authority, to drive forward our transition to a strategic commissioning authority. However it is also recognised that it will take some time to embed cultural changes and new practices across the organisation.

2. Overview of Progress:

- 2.1 The action plan sets out the detail of KCC's progress against the 27 recommendations however over the past 9 months KCC has delivered a number of key documents which are driving forward our move to become an excellent commissioning authority and ensuring that we develop a mixed and vibrant economy in Kent.
- 2.2 KCC's Strategic Statement 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes' has been adopted by County Council and reflects the need for KCC to become a very different type of council over the next five years. Our strategic and supporting outcomes will drive all our commissioning and ensure that we are securing high- quality services for our residents and that we are ensuring every pound spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses.
Whilst it will take time for this to be embedded across the Council we are already starting to see that this is a providing a 'golden thread' through our commissioning, strategies and plans.
- 2.3 Our Commissioning Framework has now been agreed and is ensuring that we are commissioning to the same high standard across the Council and sets out our commitment to Social Value within all our commissioning. Furthermore the development of a commissioning network and toolkit means that commissioners are sharing examples of good practice and innovative commissioning across different parts of the business.
- 2.4 The draft VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) policy which is out for consultation with the sector, is also helping us to ensure that we recognise the value and role of grants whilst ensuring that we are consistent and transparent in our use of grant funding. Furthermore through the consultation process we are reviewing the support needs of the sector to ensure that the VCSE market in Kent thrives.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 As set out in detail in the updated action plan there has been much progress made on the recommendations of the Committee. However, there is also recognition that this is an ongoing journey and it will take time to achieve the required cultural shift and improve our commissioning practice. It is therefore proposed that further input from the Select Committee by way of a review of progress in 6-12 months could provide a useful assessment of KCC's development as a strategic commissioning authority.

Recommendations:**The Select Committee are asked to:**

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Report Author

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