

Select Committee for Policy Review

**Tuesday 26 February, 2019 at 5.30pm
in Committee Room 1,
Oldbury Council House**

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Members to declare any interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December, 2018 as a correct record.
4. Building Community Wealth – Feedback from Visit to Preston City Council.

Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.

J Britton
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillor Worsey (Chair);
Councillors Ali, Cherrington, Edwards, Dr Jaron, Rollins and Sandars.

**Agenda prepared by Alex Goddard
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Apologies

To receive any apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

Minutes of the Select Committee for Policy Review

**11th December, 2018 at 5.30 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Worsey (Chair);
Councillors Cherrington, Edwards and Sandars.

Apologies: Councillors Ali, Dr Jaron and Rollins.

9/18 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

10/18 **Building Community Wealth – Preparation for Visit to Preston City Council**

The Chair had identified ‘Building Community Wealth’ as a topic for review by the Select Committee for Policy Review as it could contribute to all of the ambitions contained within Vision 2030.

Members were informed that Community Wealth Building was an approach that was originally developed in the United States. The aim was to ensure that “the economic system builds wealth and prosperity for everyone” and it made use of a range of policy approaches, measures and models to make it more difficult for “local financial resources to leak out” of the local economy.

Preston City Council was a strong proponent of Community Wealth Building and had developed what was known as ‘the Preston Model’. Arrangements had been made for representatives of the Select Committee to visit Preston to meet with the Leader of that council to discuss its work in this field.

The Committee discussed potential questions and lines of enquiry to

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discuss with the Leader of Preston City Council on the topic of Community Wealth Building. These were summarised as follows:-

What was the approach used in Preston to:-

- (a) prevent local resources from leaving the local area?
- (b) expand the tax base within the city?

How had the council worked with local businesses to maximise opportunities for them to take up contracts for the provision of goods and services?

How has Community Wealth Building helped to improve quality of life?

Was any upfront investment required and, if so, what form did this take?

How have co-operatives been encouraged as part of the Preston model of Community Wealth building?

Was there any potential detriment to residents (for example loss of benefits or exposure to financial risk) if they became actively involved in various aspects of Community Wealth Building?

What involvement had there been with the Local Enterprise Partnership?

What take up had there been amongst local organisations and businesses for the Preston Living Wage?

How was Preston's relationship with nearby Combined Authorities?

Has there been an impact assessment of Brexit on the Community Wealth Building approach used in Preston?

What has been the approach with local universities and other anchor institutions?

Has the approach to Community Wealth Building made use of:-

- (a) under-utilised or surplus council-owned properties/land?
- (b) Business rate relief?

How had the council achieved the transformation of Preston Market Hall? Who was involved in getting the project off the ground?

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Resolved:-


- (1) that the Chair and other available Councillors visit Preston City Council in January 2019 to discuss Community Wealth Building and the Preston Model and how it might be applied in Sandwell;
- (2) that the findings of the visit to Preston City Council be reported to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

(Meeting ended at 6.03 pm)

Contact Officer: Alex Goddard Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3178
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REPORT TO SELECT COMMITTEE FOR POLICY REVIEW

26 February 2019

Subject:	Building Community Wealth – Feedback from Visit to Preston City Council.
Director:	Director – Monitoring Officer
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Exempt Information Ref:	The information contained in this report is not exempt from publication.
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard, Scrutiny Officer alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Select Committee for Policy Review:

1. consider feedback from the visit to Preston City Council in January 2019.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Chair has identified 'Building Community Wealth' as a topic for review by the Select Committee for Policy Review. To help investigate this topic the Chair and Councillor Ali visited Preston City Council in January 2019.

2 IMPLICATION FOR THE VISION 2030

- 2.1 Building Community Wealth could contribute to all of the ambitions within Vision 2030, although there are particularly strong links to the following:

Ambition 1 – Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

Ambition 9 – Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.

Ambition 10 – Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The report was requested by the Select Committee for Policy Review.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Community Wealth Building is an approach that was originally developed in the United States. The aim is to ensure that “the economic system builds wealth and prosperity for everyone” and it makes use of a range of policy approaches, measures and models to make it more difficult for “local financial resources to leak out” of the local economy.

4.2 Preston City Council is a strong proponent of Community Wealth Building and has developed what is known as ‘the Preston Model’. Representatives of the Select Committee visited Preston to meet with the Leader of that council to discuss its work in this field.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 No consultation has been carried out for this report.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 If the Select Committee does not take the opportunity to consider the feedback from the planned visit to Preston City Council then any potential recommendations arising from the findings would not be identified.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no strategic resource implications arising directly from this report.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal or governance related aspects of this report.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report. Building Community Wealth aims to build wealth and prosperity for everyone.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report as it does not relate to personal information.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 Building Community Wealth can improve the sustainability of economic inclusion and prosperity within Sandwell.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There is no impact on any Council managed property or land arising directly from this report.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 To enable the Select Committee to receive the feedback from the visit to Preston City Council in January 2019.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

17 **APPENDICES**

None.

Surjit Tour
Director – Monitoring Officer