

Sandwell
Metropolitan Borough Council

Select Committee for Policy Review

**Tuesday 16 April, 2019 at 6.30pm
in Meeting Room G5,
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 26 February, 2019 as a correct record.
4. The Council's Approach to Addressing Homelessness.

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

**26th February, 2019 at 5.30 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Worsey (Chair);
Councillors Ali and Cherrington.

Apologies: Councillors Edwards, Dr Jaron, Rollins and Sandars.

1/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December, 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

2/19 **Building Community Wealth – Preparation for Visit to Preston City Council**

Further to Minute No. 10/18, the Chair and Councillor Ali provided the Select Committee with feedback from their visit to Preston City Council to discuss its work on Community Wealth Building with the Leader of Preston and its Deputy Chief Executive.

Following the financial market crash of 2008, and the programme of austerity that had been employed by Governments since that time, there had been little sign nationally of improvement in living standards and inequality continued to rise. Investment and productivity in the country remained weak and macro-economic approaches were not felt to be addressing the problems that were impacting on places and local communities.

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In Preston, in 2011, the £700m Tithebarn Regeneration Scheme was abandoned which highlighted the need to the City Council to consider a different approach; Community Wealth Building. While originally developed in America, Preston City Council took the concepts and values of Community Wealth Building and developed what was known as ‘the Preston Model’.

Key elements of the approach in Preston included:-

- An Anchor Institution Strategy – where large place-based institutions in Preston and Lancashire increased spending with local suppliers to benefit the local community.
- The Local Government Pension Fund that covered Preston had been encouraged to make place-based investment in the city which included student accommodation, a hotel and office space.
- Expanding co-operative and employee-owned businesses through a Co-operative Development Network.
- Seeking to establish the Lancashire Community Bank, and supporting credit unions.
- Creating, in partnership with another local authority, an energy supplier for the region.
- Planning policies encouraging locally based suppliers and labour in both public and private sector developments.
- Working with the University of Central Lancashire and other partners in establishing a Civic Drone Centre, exploring how the community could benefit from new drone supply chains and clusters.

The Preston Model, with a small investment, had enabled the anchor institutions to spend almost all of their procurement of supplies and services either within Preston or Lancashire. This had resulted in approximately £600m being spent more locally, with all the benefits that generated including stimulating the local economy, creating employment opportunities and strengthening local communities.

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It was reported that as a result of the improvements brought about by the adoption of Community Wealth Building, Preston had been named as the most improved city in the UK. Increases in multiple key index measures for Preston were out-performing the index average, this included jobs, work-life balance, skills and income distribution.

The Chair reported that Community Wealth Building was also being considered in other local authorities, most locally in Birmingham and Dudley. The Select Committee felt that Community Wealth Building, as a proven model of strengthening the local economy, held opportunities for Sandwell and agreed to recommend to the Leader that it should be further explored for adoption in the borough.

The Select Committee agreed that Community Wealth Building could strongly complement and help achieve the Council's existing ambitions in Vision 2030 and its inclusive growth agenda.

Resolved:-


- (1) that the Leader of the Council be recommended to consider Community Wealth Building for development and introduction in Sandwell to support Vision 2030 and the inclusive growth agenda;
- (2) that, subject to (1) above, the Leader of the Council be recommended to consider the establishment of a Commission to carry out the further development of Community Wealth Building in Sandwell.

(Meeting ended at 5.57 pm)

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

16 April 2019

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| Subject: | The Council's Approach to Addressing Homelessness |
| Director: | Director of Law and Governance and 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 and comment upon the information presented to it.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Chair requested a report on the Council's approach to addressing homelessness in Sandwell. Officers will attend the meeting to present information to the Select Committee.

2 IMPLICATION FOR THE VISION 2030

- 2.1 Addressing homelessness can support the following ambitions of Vision 2030:

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 2 – Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Ambition 5 – Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

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 Chair of the Select Committee for Policy Review.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Further information will be presented to the Select Committee.

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 presentation on this topic then any potential recommendations 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 Information on key legislation relating to the Council’s responsibilities in relation to homelessness will be presented to the Select Committee at the meeting.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 No equality impact assessment is required for this report.

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 There are no specific sustainability issues associated with this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 Housing is key to improving wellbeing and health outcomes for our residents.

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 The Select Committee is invited to consider the information presented to it.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

17 APPENDICES

None.

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Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer