

Meeting:	Corporate Resources and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Meeting Date:	5 November 2024
Publication:	Open
Council Priority:	Community Wealth Building
Wards:	All
Report of:	Director of Inclusive Economy and Jobs

Subject: Scrutiny Review of Progressive Procurement – Evidence from Social Value Portal

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Committee has invited Social Value Portal as an expert witness as part of its ongoing scrutiny on the Council's progressive procurement approach. Guy Battle, Chief Executive and founder, and Cindy Nadesan, Strategic Account Manager will be presenting to the committee. The presentation from Social Value Portal will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

2. Background

- 2.1 Social Value Portal helps organisations measure and communicate their social value in areas like local job opportunities, environmental outcomes, and community wellbeing. They offer a mix of consultancy, cloud platform, and programmes to help organisations accurately measure, manage, and report social value. This is based on the Social Value TOM System, endorsed by the Local Government Association, which is considered the leading standard for measuring, reporting and amplifying Social Value.
- 2.2 The Social Value Portal developed the methodology for social value delivery and measurement – the Themes Outcomes and Measures, or TOMs framework. It has been developed by social scientists and backed by up-to-date data sources and is considered a robust way to accurately and credibly evidence social value activity. The TOMs framework is configurable to individual organisational needs, such as a council's corporate priorities.

- 2.3 The council joined Social Value Portal in 2019 to support the commissioning and management of the social value delivery through the council's portfolio of affordable workspaces.
- 2.4 The council was the first in the UK to lock social value into the operation of its affordable workspaces. In lieu of rent, the innovative leases set out requirements for the workspace providers to deliver social value. The council uses the TOMs framework to measure and calculate the social value generated within local communities by these affordable workspaces. It uses quantitative and qualitative information from the workspace operators to assign a monetary value to the outcomes of each workspace – such as skills training, supply chain impact, mentoring sessions and jobs created – aligned to the council's community wealth building mission.
- 2.5 The TOMs framework generates a financial 'proxy' as a measure of the benefit to the borough. To date, the council has secured the equivalent of £4.8m social value through its affordable workspace portfolio. Scoping work is underway to measure other corporate contracts similarly.

3. Implications

- 3.1 No implications arising from this presentation. Any financial, legal and environmental implications will be considered at the conclusion of the Scrutiny process and its emerging recommendations.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The representatives from Social Value Portal have been invited to give an overview of their approach to Committee, with examples of good practice from elsewhere, and explore opportunities for potential development.

Authorised by:

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Date: 30th October 2024