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Report to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Community Wealth Building Update

Introduction

Community Wealth Building (CWB) harnesses the existing collaborative power of communities, businesses and anchor institutions such as Local Government, Health and Education, to deliver social and economic benefits. CWB gives focus to building wealth in targeted communities from within by leveraging benefits from existing resources and assets through greater diversity of economic ownership and targeted employment measures put in place by anchor institutions. CWB promotes a *generative* rather than an *extractive* economy. A community wealth building approach will support the council to adapt and evolve in what is a challenging social and economic context, asserting the importance of the city's economy nationally, but recognising the need for it to be fair and to work to improve outcomes for the most deprived communities, in line with City Council's vision to be:

"... a dynamic, sustainable city, that is future-ready, built on thriving, inclusive neighbourhoods and communities, a strong economy, a vibrant cultural life, and compact, connected growth".

Background

The Finance SPC members agreed at the March 2021 meeting to consider CWB as a topic of common interest. Arising from CWB presentations made to the September 2021 meeting, the SPC members agreed that Dublin City Council would apply CWB principles. This was in turn raised at and agreed at a meeting of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) (17th September) and also of Dublin City Council (4th October). It was agreed to develop a programme of CWB supporting actions for Dublin City Council to implement over a period of eighteen months. To progress Community Wealth Building in Dublin City Council as fully as possible, the engagement of a support specialist for the development of an implementation plan was sought. Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) was appointed and through active workshops with the CWB Working Group a comprehensive Implementation Plan was developed.

CWB Working Group

The commitment to adopt CWB principles by Dublin City Council was discussed at the Senior Management Team meeting held on 19th October 2021. It was agreed to establish a cross departmental CWB Working Group to examine and agree measures to incorporate CWB principles in service delivery and operations. The CWB working group was formed of nominees from Finance (procurement input), CRES (economic development, CRES operations and Area operations input), Housing (Community services and Housing operations input), E&T (E&T operations input), HR&CS (HR and corporate services operations input). Since then nominees from DFB and Law have joined. The Board is chaired by Kathy Quinn, Head of Finance and meets monthly to discuss options for implementing CWB across Dublin City through services and operations.

Some of the Actions currently under consideration by the Working Group are:

- Recruitment of Dublin Fire Brigade staff being positively advertised in marginalised areas.
- Explore the potential of a project or initiative under CWB that can be validly considered exempt from the procurement directives, such as an Annex 2B exemption. The procurement for sheltered workshops and reserved contracts will also be examined.
- The development of apprenticeship options including in E&T, IS and Finance.
- Changes to DCC conditions of contracts to support Community Wealth Building
- Involve the Area Partnerships, Social Enterprises and other stakeholders in the Circular economy.
- To target DEIS schools to encourage students to consider DCC as a career option.
- To undertake an analysis of DCC's spend with view to building in social requirements to contracts and linking with like-minded organisations.
- To partner with organisations with identified Corporate Social Responsibility Budgets to advance CWB initiatives
- To gather information on locally held skills
- To gather information on the progression of staff from disadvantaged backgrounds within DCC

Implementation Plan

The CWB Implementation Plan for DCC was presented and agreed at the Finance SPC meeting in May 2022 and also of Dublin City Council (13th June). The members supported the timely roll out of the Implementation Plan. Following the initial implementation period, CWB in Dublin City Council will be reviewed in the context of considering the readiness to develop further in Dublin City Council and also to engage with other 'anchor' institutions. A request for tender (RFT) under a Single Operator Framework Agreement seeking the provision of support services to assist in the roll out of the plan was issued on Friday 1st July. The closing date for Tender submissions was Wednesday 3rd August, and the award process expected to conclude shortly.

A regular update on the progress of CWB implementation in Dublin City Council will be provided to future meetings of the Finance SPC. The update to the November meeting will give SPC members detail of the supports and advice to be utilised through the successful tenderer.

Kathy Quinn

Head of Finance

With responsibility for ICT

15th September 2022