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Report to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee

Update on the development of Dublin City Council's Social Value Framework

Background

Dublin City Council adopted Community Wealth Building (CWB) principles at the City Council meeting held in October 2021. This followed the consideration of CWB by the Finance SPC and its recommendation to the Council that this approach be followed. Since then a steering group has been established who are progressing an eighteen month implementation plan. The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) were engaged by DCC to assist following a public tender process. The key objectives of the CWB implementation plan are:

- To strengthen the City Council's strategic capacity to act and deliver
- To build confidence by using pilots and area based actions to demonstrate the model
- To build understanding
- To embed Community Wealth Building within the corporate approach of the City Council and
- To develop a social value framework for Dublin City Council

Draft Framework

The CWB steering group held three workshops at which a draft social value framework was developed. The methodology applied involved the initial mapping of existing priorities. Workshop 1 concentrated on developing focus, structure, rationale and high level goals. Workshop 2 focused on honing high-level goals, developing things Dublin City Council needs to do to realise high-level goals or things to look out for in spending decisions. Workshop 3 then gave time to the further breaking down of high-level goals into overarching objectives.

Councillor Workshops

Two workshops were held for councillors to become familiar with the draft social value framework and provide an opportunity for input and comments. The workshops were held on 24th and 26th April via zoom. A note of each meeting is attached. It is intended that issues raised at the meeting will be incorporated as much as possible into the final social value framework document. Specific queries raised by councillors were subsequently responded to.

Rationale for a Social Value Framework

The rationale for or purpose of a Social Value Framework is to have a clear articulation of the wider outcomes that DCC wishes to achieve throughout its spending and decision making. This includes the commissioning and procurement of services and assets. It also applies to decisions and approaches taken in relation to employment and recruitment. It is highly relevant in the area of asset management and also in respect of grants made / awarded by DCC. The framework sets out the means through which wider stated outcomes can be realised and is for use by all those with responsibility for spending money and making decisions. Ultimately a Social Value Framework will enable DCC to demonstrate the Community Wealth Building impacts of spending and decision making choices.

Next Steps

The CWB Steering Group and CLES are working at finalising the framework, taking account of the many suggestions and comments made at the councillor workshops. It is intended that the final document will be presented to the July City Council meeting.

Kathy Quinn
Head of Finance

11th May 2023.