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POLICY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillors George Bathurst (Chairman), Claire Stretton (Vice-Chairman), David Burbage, Stuart Carroll, Carwyn Cox, Dr Lilly Evans, Lynne Jones, Ross McWilliams and Jack Rankin

Also in attendance:

Officers: Simon Fletcher, Andrew Brooker, David Scott, Alison Alexander, Michaela Rizou, Michael Llewelyn and Shilpa Manek

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2015 were approved.

DYNAMIC PURCHASING TASK AND FINISH GROUP - OUTCOMES REPORT

Councillor Carroll informed the committee that the Task and Finish Group had looked at many models of dynamic purchasing. It was suggested that a report be taken to Cabinet with recommendations, however there were still a number of practical details to work through.

Michael Llewelyn, Cabinet Policy Assistant, continued to inform the committee of the following possible benefits of a Dynamic Purchasing System:

- They could generate competition, potentially reducing costs.
- The system entry criteria would be set by the Council, changed at any time.
- Could possibly consolidate administration, saving officer hours.
- The managed dynamic purchasing system has been successful elsewhere.
- There are only a few downfalls.

Martin Strawson, Procurement and Business Development Manager, highlighted that there were two options to choose from, either to use a fully managed Dynamic Purchasing System offered by a company called Adam (formerly known as Matrix) or to use an e-tendering system, such as BravoSolution, which the council uses. E-tendering becomes mandatory from 2018.

The Critical Success factors of implementing a DPS would be:

Ensure valid and sustainable business case with senior buy-in
Sufficient early and ongoing supplier engagement to make it work.
Should be rolled out as a feasibility study.
Continuous monitoring.

Ideally rolled out as a regional system, promoting collaboration

DPS not a system but a new way of working - a culture change for both the council and providers

Could potentially stimulate competition.

We would have to sell the system, we have undertaken pilots.

The Chairman said the concept of a DPBS was very exciting and asked if other authorities were using this system well and would like be sufficient suppliers to mitigate risk.

Martin Strawson suggested a hybrid could be run in short term to mitigate implementation risks

Councillor McWilliams highlighted that there was going to be greater choice and flexibility and if people could go directly to a supplier then why would they want to go through the council, so what would the councils role be. Martin Strawson explained that intervention from the council would give personalisation and quality assurance. The Council may need to review over time the level of personalisation it offers it's residents via the DPS.

Councillor McWilliams asked how the figures on page 19 of the report were measured. Michael Llewelyn explained that the figures on page 19 of the report were measured internally and also using CQCPS ratings measures.

Alison Alexander explained that we would need to buy the places in many cases on their behalf.

Councillor Cox asked if we had started to test the risks on page 15/16 of the report. Martin Strawson explained that a tester day had been organised in October and it had received a lot of interest.

Councillor Jones referred the committee to page 24, paragraph 3.2.4, there were a high number of care homes and a risk was that their demand would reduce ours, allowing access to our information. Martin Strawson highlighted that this could be a possibility.

Councillor Stretton asked if the systems allowed users to feedback their views and was advised that both systems did and a demo was planned for the following week which would give more information.

Councillor Cox suggested that a report be prepared for Cabinet with a picture of what system would work and details of numbers and variations.

It was unanimously agreed that a report with a business case be prepared for Cabinet.

APPRENTICESHIPS OR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEME

Harjit Hunjan, Community Partnerships Manager, updated the committee on the report. Harjit Hunjan explained that the report was building on from discussions from the 4 July meeting giving a snapshot of existing opportunities and providing options and direction.

Harjit Hunjan talked through the committee through all the options explaining that there were many benefits for residents and any skills gained could be reused in the borough.

Harjit Hunjan explained the benefits of the Berkshire Community Foundation (BCF). They included:

- BCF managed many trusts.
- Engaged in many trusts.
- Can set up a trust and encouraged others to buy into that trust.

Councillor Stretton went through the options table with the following comments:

Option 1 – introduce some sort of grant with the council controlling it.

Option 2 – based on a managed loan, not a grant.

Option 3 – introduce a new scheme.

Option 4 – use Berkshire Community Fund as Harjit Hunjan explained.

Option 5 – use the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership. It would be useful to know where the skills are and where the skills shortages are.

Option 6 – mainly signposting, this option would be a quick fix but would require extra resource.

Councillor Stretton highlighted that the skills gap would be identified so people could stay and work in the borough, producing opportunities to grow for local businesses.

Councillor Cox highlighted that it was important to identify skills gap but also it was okay to encourage people to gain skills and move out of local area to work further a field.

Andrew Brooker reminded the committee of the Apprentice levy, this is a levy on the payroll. It would go into a national pot and they we would get a grant back to support us.

Lynne Jones was concerned that schools and colleges were not informed about the skills shortages, communication was lacking.

Action: Alison Alexander to give schools the skills shortages lists.

Councillor McWilliams highlighted that companies had corporate responsibilities too so information should be sent to them too and companies should be invited into schools to sell their company information.

The Chairman suggested that this item be placed on the February 2016 agenda.

This was unanimously agreed by the committee members.

TEXTILE RECYCLING PROPOSAL

The report for this agenda item was a 'to follow' report which was circulated too late on the day, not allowing members to read the report. Therefore, this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

RECYCLING TASK AND FINISH GROUP ACTION PLAN

Craig Miller, Head of Community Protection and Enforcement gave a verbal update. Craig Miller reminded Members that this was an update on the paper that had been discussed at the last meeting. Craig Miller highlighted that it was a nudge theory approach that was being used.

Highlighted points included:

- Food waste – visited 30,000 properties distributing food recycling caddy liners. This is currently under utilised so trying to raise awareness amongst residents.
- In September, 585 food recycling caddies being used, now over 1000 are being used.
- Physical stickers on all black bins. Going to monitor impact and will report back at a future meeting.
- Working closer with Communications Team to raise awareness.
- Councillor Cox attended an event to highlight gentle nudge approach.
- Task and Finish Group – marketing in a more informed way.
- Looking at performance by round and then by Ward, then will put effort in areas that need more attention.
- Work ongoing with Civic Community Slough site to understand the needs of the residents for waste behaviour.
- Any new bins delivered to residents in the borough are smaller, 180litre bins instead of 240litre bins.

There are a number of opportunities for recycling textiles. The team are looking at enhancing opportunities for residents. Currently, fifty percent of residual waste is textiles. There are further opportunities available which are being investigated, such as:

- Increasing textiles banks.
- Improving offers to procure out
- Offering a better service/income sharing opportunities that would provide collection service for our residents.

The benefits for the council would include:

- Potential route to work with schools.
- We could facilitate and improve the recycling rate and cost issues in borough.

Other issues discussed included:

- Looking at what other authorities are doing.
- Officers working on a proposal which will be shared with Members electronically with a view to put a paper to Cabinet.
- Councillor Cox suggested that the Policy Committee see the final report before committing to any options.
- Councillor Stretton suggested engaging with charity shops.
- Some counties turn clothes into fuel, to look into this option.
- Need to look at all options, charity and commercial and take all issues into consideration.

The Chairman suggested that this item be placed on the January 2016 agenda.

This was unanimously agreed by the committee members.

E-CONSULTATION UPDATE

Councillor Burbage updated Members. Councillor Burbage had met with Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead CCG and had discussed progressing the video consultation with two local care homes. A pilot is to go live during December 2015. The Prime Ministers challenge fund was funding this project. He informed the committee that Councillor Coppinger was to attend where a video examination was going to be taking place.

Currently, 600 visits to one care home could take place in one month. If the video consultation was being used more, could possibly be very cost effective. It would reduce unnecessary visits and travel times. The technology was going in the right direction and it would be worth monitoring this area.

Councillor Carroll informed the committee that this subject had also been discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting earlier that day. It would be useful to work more integrated on this area of work.

The committee agreed that we note the progress on this subject, speak with Councillor Coppinger and look into the transparency policy and bring an update to the January 2016 meeting.

This was unanimously agreed by the committee members.

WORK PROGRAMME/FUTURE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The committee discussed the work programme for the next meeting and agreed the following:

To keep Innovative Right to Buy and Shared Equity Schemes on the January 2016 agenda.

To keep Housing Nominations Rights on the January 2016 agenda.

To keep the Nudge Subcommittee Progress Update on the January 2016 agenda.

To delete the Full Integration of Health Budgets (Verbal Update) as this sits with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

To add the Textile Recycling Proposal and Recycling Task and Finish Group Action Plan onto the work programme for January 2016.

To circulate Review of the Longlist and Progress to Date to Members.

Action: To circulate Review of the Longlist and Progress to Date to Members.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

To note the following future meeting dates:

- 19 January 2016
- 24 February 2016
- 18 April 2016

The meeting, which began at 7.00 pm, finished at 8.10 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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