

# **SOCIAL POLICY MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

## Terms of Reference

February 2021

## **1. Role and Responsibilities**

The role of the Social Policy Member Working Group will be to act as a task and finish group responsible for making recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SP&R) on the development and implementation of policies and practices that achieve Council's ambition of an inclusive city and promote community wealth building practices as the city recovers from the pandemic.

Through the group, officers and members will work collaboratively to 'problem solve' on substantive issues related to progressive procurement, community wealth building and the broader ambition of inclusive growth.

## **2. Terms of Reference**

The Social Policy Member Working Group Terms of Reference will be to:

- Identify the communities / priority groups across the city that the council and its partners will focus on. Setting an agreed framework for action that will flow through council investment and priorities.
- Develop the City Charter overseeing its design and delivery across the City.
- Oversee the creation of a robust and ambitious approach for the integration of social value through the Council's procurement processes, with consideration given to financial affordability, legal implications and the maximisation of impact;
- Develop a Social Value Procurement Framework aligned to the ambitions of the Council through the Belfast Agenda and Inclusive Growth Strategy;
- Moving the Community Wealth Building agenda forwards, working with City Partners (anchor institutions) with an initial focus on procurement & commissioning;
- Building capacity and understanding across Council and City partners on the benefits that a community wealth building approach can bring to a city and its region.
- Collate and consider good practice from other cities and local authorities from the UK, Ireland and internationally;
- Consider other actions, interventions which the Council may wish to take to build the city's economic and social resilience;
  
- Influence and contribute to regional considerations required to support the council's ambitions, including exploring opportunities for funding from external sources;
- Support the approval of policies and practices through council channels, engagement with external stakeholders and public consultation;

- Approve and monitor delivery of an implementation plan for the adopted approaches with consideration given to staffing and delivery resources, and effective mechanisms are in place to integrate, manage and measure impact;
- Consider public awareness campaigns which the Council may wish to deliver to achieve its ambitions; and
- Report on progress to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on a regular basis through reports and minutes of meetings.

### **3. Membership**

The Social Policy Working Group will comprise of one member from each of the political parties in the Council.

### **4. Chairperson**

In line with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decision on 19th August 2016, a Chairperson will be appointed on an annual basis. This item of business will be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of each Working Group following the Annual Council meeting each year.

### **5. Frequency of meetings**

The Social Policy Working Group will meet on a bi-monthly basis unless otherwise required.