

20 December 2018

Executive

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Customer & Corporate Services

Portfolio of the Executive Leader (Incorporating Finance & Performance)

Construction Charter

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the introduction of a minimum standards charter in respect of construction projects procured by the Council.

Recommendations

2. The Executive is asked to:
 - a. Adopt the minimum standards charter attached at annex 1
 - b. Agree that the Council ensures all existing and potential suppliers are made aware of the adoption of the charter.
 - c. Agree that the Council monitors performance of contractors against the standards contained in the charter.

Reason: to provide a clear statement of the way in which the Council manages the commissioning and procurement of projects with the construction industry.

Background and analysis

3. In 2014 Trade Unions initiated a campaign to raise standards of employment, health and safety and the terms and conditions of workers employed in the construction industry. There were concerns expressed about the growing number of sub contracting arrangements where those employed are not always adequately trained and employment practices were sometimes unsafe.
4. Since 2014, many other councils across the country have since adopted a minimum standards charter and the majority of Yorkshire & Humber councils now have this in place.
5. Earlier this year, officers met with a representative from UCATT and have also reviewed those charters already in operation at other councils. We quickly

established that this council is already adopting the main principles of the UCATT charter. For example, we already include fair work practices, living wage, employment and skills plans, local employment and trade union recognition in our tender documentation.

6. Although this council is already compliant with the charter, it is acknowledged that the publication of a formal set of agreed minimum standards will ensure there are clear protocols in place for the way in which we manage the procurement of work with the construction industry.
7. The council has therefore put together the charter attached at annex 1 to this report which sets out for all contractors the standards that are expected. However, it is not so prescriptive as to prevent small and medium sized business working for the Council.

Consultation

8. UCATT have been consulted on the charter. In addition, the Council held a number of “Meet the Buyer” events during November to coincide with York Business Week. These events, organised by the Procurement Team, gave current and prospective suppliers an opportunity to meet the Council and discuss a range of issues. A particular effort was made to engage with small and medium sized York based businesses. Presentations were made both to the local Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business. All current construction industry suppliers working for the Council have had a direct communication from the procurement team inviting comments or concerns. No concerns have been raised through these events.

Options

9. The council could choose not to adopt the construction charter and continue to deal with these matters on a case by case basis for individual procurements. This option has not been considered further as having the charter in place will give a clear statement of the standards expected from suppliers and ensure consistency of approach across all projects undertaken by the council.

Council Plan

10. The agreement and publication of the minimum standards charter will contribute to the Council delivering its core priority of a prosperous city for all.

Implications

11. **Financial** - there is no direct financial impact of adopting this charter. It will be managed and monitored through a robust procurement strategy and proactive management of contracts.
12. **One Planet Council / Equalities** - the formal adoption of the charter is consistent with the One Planet Council framework and will reinforce the council's commitment to equalities.
13. There are no HR, legal, crime and disorder, information technology, property or other implications.

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	Report Approved	√	Date 26.11.18
Wards Affected: <i>All</i>			
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