



**NORWICH**  
City Council

**Committee Name: Cabinet**

**Committee Date: 12/01/2022**

**Report Title: Scrutiny recommendations to cabinet**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

**Report from:** Executive director of community services

**Wards:** All Wards

**OPEN PUBLIC ITEM**

### **Purpose**

To consider the recommendations made by scrutiny committee on 18 November 2021.

### **Recommendation**

To consider whether to adopt all or some of the recommendations from the scrutiny committee.

### **Policy Framework**

The Council has three corporate priorities, which are:

- People living well
- Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment
- Inclusive economy

This report meets the corporate priorities for people living well and great neighbourhoods, housing and the environment.

## Report Details

1. At its meeting on 18 November 2021, the scrutiny committee considered a report on the emerging new social inclusion agenda following COVID-19. The report was presented by the council's strategy manager and reviewed key learning from the council's approach to reducing inequalities over the current corporate plan period (2019-22) and how this learning could be applied or embedded within the council going forward.
2. Much of the work will be locality based, focusing on where the greatest disadvantages have been identified in areas such as food and fuel poverty, digital inclusion and diversity and equality. The wards identified for more targeted work are Mancroft, Crome, Mile Cross, Catton Grove, Wensum and Lakenham. Members heard how the strength of existing partnerships will allow the council to move quickly on reducing inequalities, and that existing mechanisms will be used to quantify how effective this work has been in terms of both immediate impact and generational impact.
3. There was discussion on the importance of the Living Wage in the context of social inclusion. Members heard that thirteen businesses had joined the Living Wage Network in 2021 despite challenges such as COVID-19, zero hours contracts and the transition to a low carbon society. There is a three year plan in place to establish Norwich as a Living Wage city.
4. There was wide ranging discussion on citizen participation, and the need for people to feel that engaging with the council would lead to tangible outcomes. Local community connectors have been employed to listen and act on feedback from local communities and more engagement work with community groups is planned, such as a social supermarket and training programmes around cooking.
5. At the meeting held on 18 November the following resolutions were made:

Recommendation	Rationale	Implications / resource requirements
1) ask cabinet to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) commission a background report on inequality in Norwich with benchmarking from other cities and long term trends to inform an evidence based framework which would set and link to existing Key Performance Indicators (not to be to the detriment of on the ground work)</li> </ul>	This work would provide information on inequality in Norwich over a period of time; together with the same information from other cities, in order for comparisons to be made. This information would be visible through the reporting of Key Performance Indicators.	Staff time to commission the report and subsequent funding.

<p>b) consider whether it is legally viable to begin establishing a matrix in accordance with procurement strategy which also includes trade union recognition, lack of use of zero hours contracts and broadly comparable gender pay gap with the council</p>	<p>This work would allow Norwich City Council to show what importance each factor is given (depending on their weighting) in the procurement strategy for new goods and services.</p>	<p>Officer time initially to see if such a matrix is legally viable, then, if so, implementation.</p>
<p>c) ensure that appropriate resources are available to ensure that the good work on social inclusion projects continues</p>	<p>Members heard the positive impact to local communities that the social inclusion projects deliver. Opportunities for funding should be sought and followed up.</p>	<p>Officer time and budgetary resources to support the project.</p>
<p>d) resource staffing to seek new venues and funding for social supermarkets across the city and to increase provision and extend existing projects.</p>	<p>Social supermarkets are identified as a useful resource as part of the Food Poverty Action Plan and can utilize the community asset transfer model. Opportunities for funding should be sought and followed up.</p>	<p>Officer time.</p>
<p>e) engage with communities to ensure participatory budgeting processes.</p>	<p>Members heard how there has been a lot of research undertaken on citizen participation to understand the key principles and methodologies and engagement work had been done with community groups. This work recognises the importance of community engagement in the process of deciding how public money is sent.</p>	<p>Officer time, both from a strategy and communications point of view.</p>
<p>f) ensure digital inclusion work continues and is extended where possible.</p>	<p>Members heard the positive impact to local communities that the digital inclusion project delivers. Opportunities for funding should be</p>	<p>Officer time.</p>

	sought and followed up.	
2) ask for the topic of ward breakdown of project delivery to be considered by the scrutiny committee in the new civic year	The scrutiny committee will consider this when setting their work programme for the new civic year.	None at this stage.
3) To receive an update on work being done to improve communications with tenants.	The scrutiny committee will consider this when setting their work programme for the new civic year.	None at this stage.
4) To note that the scrutiny committee recognises the link between inequality and education and would like to consider this as a piece of future scrutiny work, to include how the council works with partners on this issue.	The scrutiny committee will consider this when setting their work programme for the new civic year.	None at this stage.

6. The scrutiny work programme was discussed and the following resolutions were made;
- a) the meeting to consider the NRL and NCSL business plans would take place on 10 or 11 January 2022
  - b) the meeting on 16 December 2021 will consider the Equality Information report
  - c) the Corporate Plan would be considered at the meeting on 20 January 2022;
  - d) the item on a sustainable and inclusive Norwich economy following Covid-19 would move to the meeting on 17 March 2022.

### **Consultation**

7. Ward councillors, portfolio holders, the public or other stakeholders have not been consulted (statutorily or otherwise). However the public are encouraged to submit topics for scrutiny via an interactive form on the council's website.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial and Resources**

8. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2019-22 and Budget.

9. Any impact on resources resulting from this report will be accommodated within existing budgets or the relevant approvals will be sought if additional budget is required.

### Legal

10. No specific legal advice has been sought or provided.

### Statutory Considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and Diversity	None at this stage
Health, Social and Economic Impact	The reducing inequalities work considered by scrutiny on 18 November will have a significant positive impact in this area.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None at this stage
Environmental Impact	None at this stage

### Risk Management

Risk	Consequence	Controls Required
None at this stage		

### Other Options Considered

11. There have been no other options considered for this report, as it is a factual report based on the outcome of committee meetings that have already taken place.

### Reasons for the decision/recommendation

12. This report will allow cabinet to make a decision on whether or not to take forward some or all of the recommendations from the scrutiny committee meeting held on 18 November 2021.

**Background papers:** none

**Appendices:** none

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