



Report to: STAR Joint Committee
Date: 15th June 2022
Report for: Information/Discussion
Report of: Assistant Director's STAR

Report Title

STAR Procurement Continuous Improvement Update

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update STAR Joint Committee on the continuous improvements made against our STAR Business Plan 2021-24

Recommendations

The recommendation of this report is that the STAR Joint Committee:

- Discuss and give consideration of the continuous improvements made against our STAR Business Plan 2021-24 and future plans

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Background

Financial Impact:	None
Legal Impact:	None
Human Resources Impact:	None
Asset Management Impact:	None
E-Government Impact:	None
Risk Management Impact:	None
Health and Safety Impact:	None

Consultation

No public consultation required

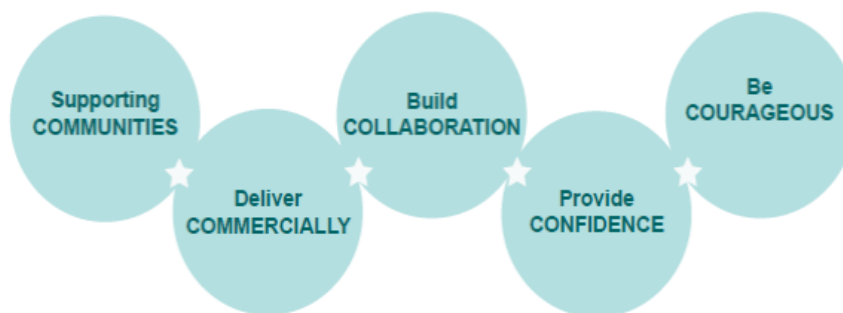
1. Background

- 1.1. The STAR Business Plan 2021-24 was launched in January 2021. This sets the strategic direction for STAR over the next three years, including our vision, objectives and enablers.

Our Vision

Leading Transformation Through
Procurement and Co-Operation

Our Objectives



Our Enablers



2. Continuous Improvement Group

One of the priorities the STAR Continuous Improvement Group (CIG) is the National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS) issued in June 2021. From the NPPS statement STAR completed a benchmarking exercise to see where we were against the requirements, positively we already fulfil the majority of the requirements and have noted a number of actions to improve our procurement service on the back of the benchmarking exercise. These actions are being worked through via STAR Working Groups and the CIG group. In terms of

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progress we now have plans to publish our workplans 18 months in advance, we have updated our Category Strategies to add more rigor prior to procurement, undertaking market assessments and risk considerations. Looking at the economic and financial standing of suppliers and the risks that poses to contracts. We are working with our partners to deliver a Social Value Statement and include governance around Social Value when developing strategies and business cases.

The action plan is reviewed and updated regularly as well as shared with audit colleagues.

In addition to the NPPS STAR also a working on the Sourcing Playbook issued by central government. The playbook contains a wealth of good practice and standards to work through, recently we have used the consultancy playbook to draft our own consultancy protocol upon which STAR Board have reviewed and commented, this will be issued to our partners in due course. The Sourcing playbook is a great source of information that continues to assist us with our continuous improvement endeavours.

3. Supporting Communities

3.1. Social Value

The new Social Value Portal contract has now been implemented, and a number of continuous improvement items are being progressed including:

- Online evaluations
- Data reporting
- Community Impact Fund

STAR attended and presented at the National Social Value conference, and received positive feedback on the work we are doing and the achievements to date.

3.2 Real Living Wage

STAR are part of the working group that has been created to develop an action plan following the GMCA Procurement/Social Value paper.

3.3 Resources: Recruitment and Retention

There continues to be high turnover of staff, including senior posts within the STAR team. Whilst we have been able to recruit, and continue to promote from within through our Grow Your Own policy, recruitment and retention remains very challenging.

There are a lot of vacancies currently being advertised by public sector partners across Greater Manchester and Central Government, and STAR are struggling

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to remain competitive in terms of salaries. Roles advertised are mainly for sole organisations and are deemed 'easier' than working in a multi-partner organisation and one that is continually growing.

Agency staff continue to help us to deliver the income generation work, thereby mitigating any impact on service delivery to our Partners, however there is a cost to this in terms of agency fees

4. Deliver Commercially

4.1. Income Plan for 2022/23

A number of commissions have been secured and are being delivered by the Development Team, as well as a number of new opportunities that are currently being scoped and proposals drafted.

Secured commissions for 2022/23 are set out in the Growth Paper.

4.2 Commercial Contract Management (CCM)

Following a successful recruitment process we have promoted one of the STAR team to the role of Procurement Business Partner to lead the commercial contract management work. There are a number of negotiations underway and albeit no cash has been secured from those negotiations but a commitment from the providers to discuss further and potential increases in social value offers and/or cost avoidance measures.

Due to wider global pressures of inflation, gas prices, market uncertainty and supply chain issues, negotiations have proved to be very challenging.

5. Build Collaboration

5.1. In-tend

We have now completed the data cleansing and our focus is now on resolving the workplan issues with In-tend. The system is now ready to be used for contract management and each Council is responsible for their own contract management implementation.

A working group will meet in June to agree approaches and timelines for each Council. STAR are working with key link Officers in each Council as well as continuing liaison with Stockport Council who are providing advice and feedback from their own implementation.

6. Provide Confidence

6.1. Work Streams

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There are 3 work streams within the Delivery Team, Social Value, Simplify and Systems, the HOSPs presented a Work Stream Update to Wider Leadership and the Delivery Team with regards to progress to date and plans for 2022. Following a refresh of each workstream they are focussed on our 12 Steps to Social Value, Tableau/Intend and pipeline planning, simplifying procedures and processes and removing barriers via a full review of documentation.

6.2. **New Procurement Regulations**

The draft Procurement Bill has been published, a number of the team are attending the Cabinet Office training sessions over the next few weeks and we have set up a working group within STAR to ensure that there is a smooth and efficient roll out of the new CPRS and then will continue to work on the new Procurement Regulations. Please see following link for explanatory notes:- [Procurement \(parliament.uk\)](https://www.parliament.uk)

6.3 **Data SLA with Stockport MBC**

The SLA with Stockport Council to support our data management through Tableau is performing well. Following the conclusion of a six month trail period, the SLA has now been implemented as an ongoing SLA arrangement.

7. **Be Courageous**

7.1. **National & Regional Events**

STAR Procurement have presented/delivered training at the following regional and national groups:

- National Social Value Conference
- GM Real Living Wage City Region Group
- GM Mayoral Priorities and Group
- National Social Value Task Force and its associated sub-groups.

8. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that STAR Joint Committee:

- Discuss and give consideration of the continuous improvements made against our STAR Business Plan 2021-24 and future plans.