

STAR JOINT COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2023

PRESENT

Councillors: Patel, Ali, Allan, North

In Attendance

Caroline Barlow	Tameside Council
Jonathon Davies	Stockport Council
Sara Saleh	Trafford Council
Lorraine Cox	STAR
Nichola Cooke	STAR
Daniel Knowles	Trafford Council
Stephanie Ferraioli	Trafford Council
Zulficar Ali	Rochdale Council

1 ATTENDANCES

An apology for absence was received from Michael Cullen, Elizabeth McKenna, Dominique Sykes and Susan Hedges.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There was no declaration of interests from members relating to today's agenda.

3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Patel be the new Chair following the appointment of Councillor Ross to Leader of Trafford Council.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2022 be noted as a true and correct record.

5. PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2023/24

RESOLVED - That the dates for the new municipal year 2023 be noted as follows: -

Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 11 am - Trafford
Thursday 21st September 2023 at 11 am – Stockport
Thursday 14th December 2023 at 11 am – Rochdale
Thursday 21st March 2024 at 11 am – Tameside

6. Q3 5 STAR PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND NEW PROPOSED MEASURES FOR 2023/24

Members were informed that STAR local spend is at 47.3% just below its target of 50% at Q3. New Measures were proposed for 23/24 with the main changes being the savings efficiency target which will now only report on revenue efficiencies and the compliance target will report on non-compliance rather than compliance.

Councillor North welcomed the change.

Councillor Allan queried about the difference between ratified and non-verified spending and was informed that ratified spending is verified by the in-house finance teams and the non-verified spend is what has not yet been signed off to become verified. Global pressures will make savings efficiencies even harder to secure at present. But going forward perhaps we should be more ambitious.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

STAR held a *Meet the Buyer* event in November 2022 hosted by Tameside Council which was very successful and will hold another series of smaller events in 2023 in the four Boroughs. This will be specifically aimed at SMEs and local organisations focusing on supporting better bidders to become ‘match fit’ and focussing on removing barriers to grow our local economy.

STAR continues to support its partners to achieve Real Living Wage Accreditation. Trafford Council have already submitted their application whereas Stockport Council will do shortly.

STAR are ensuring all its staff where possible members will work towards a full MCIPs qualification going forward using apprenticeships which will help to reduce training budget costs.

Members were informed that the new Procurement Bill was issued in May 2022 and is now going through the House of Commons and it is expected to receive Royal Assent by May 2023. STAR will be issuing more information when known.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

8. COLLABORATION

STAR will drive a new focus to further improve working in collaboration on as many contracts as possible and will report to the Board quarterly going forward.

The Chair stated that it was helpful to have a distinction between procurement and collaboration. Councillor Allan, was also in agreement that a full presentation from STAR on collaboration would prove beneficial for members.

RESOLVED – That STAR Joint Committee supports the focus on improved collaboration and would welcome further detail and a presentation overview.

9. FSB REPORT – PUBLIC SECTOR PROCUREMENT IN GREATER MANCHESTER

The report was created and initially circulated by the Federation for Small Businesses. Their findings in 2022 highlight 7 key recommendations and STAR reviewed these and provided a position statement for STAR.

STAR are working to support better bidders and increase local spending and to this end they have the following measures in place:

Pre-engagement protocol, risk based sourcing (RBS), an audit to review the RBS and a record of the type of business bidding and winning contracts to assess supplier diversity.

STAR has commenced adding questions into the Supplier Questionnaire to establish if bidders have a carbon action plan in place, if they are a Real Living Wage employer and whether they are willing to be part of the GM Good Employment Charter. Further information will be provided at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 2) That the report be noted.

10. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There was no urgent business to be discussed.

11. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, because of the likelihood of disclosure of “exempt information” which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, and specified on the agenda item or report relating to each such item respectively.

12. Q3 BUDGET UPDATE

The Director of STAR updated members on the Q3 budget.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

13. STAR GROWTH UPDATE

The Director of STAR provided a verbal update for members.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.