

Item No. 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 July 2020	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Procurement: Accessibility and Social Value – Report from the Education and Business Scrutiny Commission	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Education and Business Scrutiny Commission	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet note the education and business scrutiny commission report on procurement: accessibility and social value, Appendix A.
2. That the cabinet considers the recommendations from the education and business scrutiny commission and request that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet within eight weeks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Commission investigated how accessible procurement opportunities in Southwark are to local businesses and community organisations. The commission placed particular emphasis on understanding how accessible procurement opportunities are to businesses that are led (at Director level) by people with protected characteristics that are typically underrepresented in business leadership. The Commission also looked at the Council's early activity to implement social value provisions of its Fairer Future Procurement Framework.
4. The education and business scrutiny commission agreed its report for referral to cabinet at its meeting held on 20 May 2020 (subject to a few minor amendments). The commission used a range of methods to gather evidence for the report, including interviews with various council officers, discussions with local business improvement districts (BIDs) and Southwark's Chamber of Commerce. The Commission also received information on schemes to help local businesses to access commercial procurement opportunities and from other local authorities that have taken ambitious steps to make their procurement activity more accessible to local businesses.
5. The Commission's work builds on previous scrutiny and audit activity. The Commission has drawn on the overview and scrutiny committees 2015 review of the Council's procurement practices and the audit, governance and standards committee's ongoing analysis of implementation of the Fairer Future Procurement Framework.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The education and business scrutiny commission has made 9 recommendations to cabinet which are set out in the recommendations section of the scrutiny commission report (pages 17 to 20).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Business Scrutiny Commission Agendas and Minutes 2019/20	Southwark Council Website	Fitzroy Williams 020 7525 7102
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=518		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Procurement: Accessibility and Social Value – Report from the Education and Business Scrutiny Commission (circulated separately)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Member	Councillor Peter Babudu, Chair, Education and Business Scrutiny Commission (Report author of the commission report)	
Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)	
Version	Final	
Dated	2 July 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		2 July 2020