

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** The Executive – 24 July 2019

**Subject:** Revising the Ethical Procurement Policy - The adoption of the Unite Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

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### **Summary**

To incorporate into the Ethical Procurement Policy the Unite Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector and any other revisions necessary.

### **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended to:

1. agree to the Unite Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector be included within the appendices of the Ethical Procurement Policy;
  2. agree the inclusion of the additional wording to section 5 of the Policy as detailed in this report; and
  3. request that the Chief Executive signs the Charter on behalf of the Council to signify it has been included in the Policy.
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### **Wards Affected: All**

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of the contribution to the strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Council is committed to improving engagement with Small – Medium organisations, voluntary sector and charitable organisations, and where appropriate tenders will be adapted to their needs, particularly with regard to dividing large contracts into lots, in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Provide better Health and Wellbeing for Manchester residents through promotion of fair working conditions, better training opportunities and sustainable economic growth.
A progressive and equitable city:	The Council favours an asset based approach

making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	which looks at the uniqueness of people, their potential skills, assets, relationships and community resources. This approach concentrates primarily on what is important to people, what they want to do, and the strengths and nature of their social networks. This underpins wider Council priorities of building self-reliance and strengthening communities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The supplier, service provider and contractor endeavour to purchase through suppliers and contractors who are continuously working at improving labour and environmental standards in the supply chain.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Through commissioning and procurement activities this will promote Manchester as an attractive place to work by securing wider benefits and improvement to the lives of people in Manchester and the environment.

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Manchester Council was approached through the executive member for finance and human resources Unite Union Greater Manchester Social Action Branch asking how they could work with us to further develop and monitor the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy.
- 1.2 During the past 12 months several meetings have been held with the Unite Social Action Branch to discuss how we can improve the policy and its implementation through joint working.
- 1.3 The discussion resulted in the development of the Unite Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector which sets out how we will work together to identify potential areas of non-compliance with the standards set out in the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy by suppliers and contractors to the Council.
- 1.4 The Charter is appended to this report.

## **2.0 Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector**

- 2.1 The Charter sets out that the Council and the Unite Greater Manchester Social Action Branch will monitor and review the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy on an ongoing basis.
- 2.2 The Charter sets out that the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement will meet with representatives of Unite Greater Manchester Social Action Branch within 10 working days if presented with evidence of non-compliance with the standards.
- 2.3 The Charter will promote co-operation and consultation between the Council and Unite Greater Manchester Social Action Branch in their commitment to ethical employment standard in the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- 2.4 The Charter applies to all voluntary sector suppliers, service providers and contractors to the Council.
- 2.5 By approving and including the Charter in the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy contracts between the Council and voluntary sector suppliers, service providers and contractors to the Council will be strengthened. This Charter also aligns itself to the modern slavery and Human Trafficking Act which is referred to in the Council's Ethical Policy.
- 2.6 It is recommended that the following wording is included in the Ethical Procurement Policy under Section 5 - Improve labour conditions in the supply chain

### **“Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector**

*As a local authority we are responsible for the procurement of a multitude of contracts within the voluntary and community sector. It is therefore appropriate that we as a responsible Council have signed up to Unite's Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector in order to achieve the highest standards of ethical employment and behaviour. A link to the full charter that the Council have signed up to can be found in the appendix to the policy."*

### **3.0 Recommendations**

3.1 The recommendations are set out at the front of the report:

1. agree to the Unite Charter for Ethical Employment Standards in the Voluntary and Community Sector be included within the appendices of the Ethical Procurement Policy;
2. agree the inclusion of the additional wording to section 5 of the Policy as detailed in 2.6 above; and
3. request that the Chief Executive signs the Charter on behalf of the Council to signify it has been included in the Policy.