

## Statement to Bristol City Council's Business Change & Resources Scrutiny Commission 20 July 2015

Re: 'Making our Money go Further' – Social Value Report (agenda item 14)

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Voscur fully supports the recent Inquiry Day and was pleased to be invited to participate. We have worked with Bristol City Council on the early stages of the Social Value Policy and other developments in commissioning and procurement.

We have created many opportunities in recent years for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations to feed in their experiences of commissioning. We do this so that smaller/local/equalities-led/specialist organisations are included in commissioning processes and can win public service delivery contracts.

Voscur believes that diverse and numerous Bristol's VCS organisations contribute much social value to the city – through supporting thousands of volunteers, creating apprenticeships, bringing additional resources into Bristol and keeping funds circulating in the local economy.

Our VCS Advocates (elected representatives of parts of the VCS) gave evidence at the Inquiry Day about their experiences of commissioning/procurement. In summary, some processes do not involve small/local/equalities-led/specialist organisations. If they are not involved in BCC's contracted services, the city cannot realise their substantial social value.

We also presented a summary of the commonly occurring barriers as well as some solutions (a draft joint action plan is currently being considered by SLT). Voscur will continue to support the development of the new Social Value Policy and Toolkit and to tackle commissioning/procurement issues so that the social value of Bristol's VCS organisations is recognised and celebrated.

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Voscur