



Social Value Policy

Introduction

As a council we spend £140m on goods and services each year, more than any other organisation in the city. This provides the council with significant leverage to incentivise suppliers to be more sustainable in their practices and to encourage the organisations we buy from to deliver additional social, environmental and economic benefits to the city. The term 'Social Value' has been developed to refer to the achievement of these extra benefits through procurement and commissioning. Social value is a way of thinking about how resources are allocated and looking beyond the cost of a contract to the collective benefits the contract will deliver to the wider community.

This statement sets out City of York Council's commitment to embedding social value into its procurement and commissioning processes, creating a supply chain that helps us work towards our strategic priorities. As service delivery increasingly shifts to external providers, this will become ever more important part of the council's aspiration to become a more sustainable and resilient city.

The statement will also enable us to meet our legal obligations set out in the Social Value Act (2012). The Act requires all public bodies to consider how they might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their area when buying services above the OJEU threshold, currently £181k for services and £4.5m for works.

Our social value priorities

Three key social value priorities have been identified: 'Strong Community', a 'Vibrant and Inclusive Economy' and a 'Healthy Environment'. These are the foundations of the One Planet York framework, which aims to drive progress towards a more sustainable and resilient city. Within this, One Planet Council makes a commitment to put economic, social and environmental sustainability at the heart of our organisation. These high level principles have been further broken down into a number of key objectives that we wish suppliers to contribute towards. Whilst these objectives are fixed, suppliers may propose to deliver social value in any number of ways. This is to cater for the varied nature of public sector contracts; encourage innovative approaches to service delivery; and ensure that any benefits meet specific local needs. There is no "one size fits all" model and each procurement exercise needs to be dealt with on a case by case basis.

The overall aim of the policy is to reduce inequality and narrow the gap in outcomes by attracting Social Value activities that will improve the lives and life chances of York residents, alongside enhanced sustainability of the city.

The tables below set out our key objectives and provide examples of how suppliers may help us meet them. The examples and associated outcome measures are illustrative rather than exhaustive.

1) Strong Community

Objective	Examples of social value	Example outcome measures
Investing in the health and wellbeing of communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing health and wellbeing programmes for staff • Promoting education campaigns (for example, healthy living, debt or physical and mental health) • Providing schemes which encourage staff to cycle work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of employees benefitting from health and wellbeing programmes • Campaign reach • Staff behavioural change • Increase in number of staff cycling to work
Building capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing voluntary, community and faith sector organisations / community groups to make use of business premises • Providing pro bono consultancy to voluntary sector organisations e.g. marketing, digital skills, financial management, etc. • Establishing an employee volunteering scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of hours premises rented out for • Number of hours of consultancy provided • Number of employee hours volunteered
Supporting the most vulnerable residents & bringing communities together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting employees who are vulnerable or on low income with their childcare • Engagement with community cohesion projects • Running or supporting befriending / mentoring schemes for vulnerable adults or children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of employees benefitting from childcare • Number of community projects supported • Number of vulnerable adults or children supported • Number of hours volunteered

Relevant One Planet Principles: Health & Wellbeing, Strong Resilient Community, A City Working Together

2) Vibrant & Inclusive Economy

Objectives	Examples of social value	Example outcome measures
Supporting the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the total spend within the local supply chain • Involving SMEs, voluntary sector organisations and social enterprises within the supply chain • Providing support to new businesses, SMEs, social or green enterprises or voluntary sector organisations • Attracting inward investment into the city or wider region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of total spend within the local supply chain • Number of SMEs etc. supported • Amount of inward investment achieved
Helping residents to get good quality jobs and ensuring we have the workforce of the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating new jobs within the local economy • Providing apprenticeships or work experience placements • Supporting young people to develop their skills (e.g. by providing training courses, mentoring, career guidance, talks, mock interviews, advice on CVs, etc.) • Offering curriculum support to schools • Providing training courses or workshops to improve digital literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of jobs created • Number of apprenticeships or work experience placements provided • Number of young people supported • Number of schools engaged with and / or time committed • Number of digital literacy courses offered / reach of course
Promoting equity and financial inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying the Foundation Living Wage • Providing specific employment support to vulnerable or underrepresented groups, such as the long-term unemployed, ex-offenders, or individuals with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of vulnerable individuals receiving support • % increase in pay for lowest paid staff or reduction in the pay gap between lowest and highest paid

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting recruitment of the one or more of the above groups • Increasing the rate of pay for lowest-paid staff by adoption of the Foundation Living Wage • Supporting staff with additional needs by permitting flexible working • Working with schools to support children at risk of poor educational attainment or becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training), such as those in care • Providing guaranteed interview schemes for the unemployed 	<p>staff members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of staff with additional needs supported • Number of children engaged with
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Relevant One Planet Principles: Decent standard of living, Education & Opportunity, Fairness & Inclusion, Sustainable Food and Materials

3) Healthy Environment

Objective	Examples of social value	Example outcome measures
Minimising waste, water usage and energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing waste sent to landfill* • Maximising % of waste recycled* • Maximising use of renewable and/or low-carbon energy sources * • Supporting local sustainable transport initiatives • Minimising distance travelled to access services • Supporting or delivering environmental education campaigns • Maximising use of sustainable materials <p>*should be considered in relation to the entire supply chain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in waste sent to landfill by X% (compared to previous contract) • % of waste recycled • % reduction in energy usage (compared to previous contract) • % of energy from a renewable source • % of service users or employees travelling by sustainable modes of transport • Number / reach of environmental campaigns
Protecting and enhancing the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing additional open space • Significant investment in trees and landscaping • Minimising the impact on air quality • Minimising noise pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of open space provided • Spend on trees / landscaping • Reduction in noise or air pollution compared to previous contract
Supporting local and sustainable food suppliers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the use of locally-sourced, sustainable and / or fair-trade food • Reducing food miles (field to fork) through the use of local suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of food products that are locally-sourced, sustainable and / or fair-trade

Relevant One Planet Principles: Zero Carbon and Sustainable Transport, Zero Waste, Land Use and Wildlife, Sustainable Food, Water and Materials

Why have we developed a social value policy?

- To maximise the value we obtain from public spending
- To reduce demand on services, by encouraging suppliers to support our strategic priorities
- To meet our legal obligations
- To help support local businesses and the voluntary sector
- To enable us to deliver social value in a manner that is consistent and measurable

What will success look like?

- An increase in the number of procurements that include social value in their specification and bid evaluation
- Social value is discussed at all meet the buyer events and throughout the pre-procurement stage
- Managers, members and suppliers are aware of what social value means and how they can help deliver it

How will we incorporate social value into the procurement process?

Separate guidance will be developed to ensure that social value is fully embedded into procurement processes. Ongoing support and training will be provided for managers and members. We will engage with suppliers, partners and other stakeholders to ensure they are fully aware of what social value means and how they can contribute. Additional guidance and support will be offered to SME's and voluntary sector organisations.

When should the policy be applied?

The policy must be considered when buying goods or services over the value of £100k, but can also apply to contracts of any value. The degree of consideration should be proportionate to the value of the contract. At least 10% of bid scoring will be allocated to social value. An exception must be sought if this is to be waived.

How has the policy been developed?

The priorities set out in this social value policy reflect the principles underpinning One Planet Council and One Planet York. Both initiatives seeks to mobilise the city towards a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative future, with a vibrant and inclusive economy, strong community and healthy environment. One Planet Council addresses this from our own internal organisational perspective, whilst One Planet York is externally-focused and concerned with mobilising the city. At the centre of the two initiatives are ten key sustainability principles:

The ten principles are:

- Decent standard of living

- Education and opportunity
- Fairness and inclusion
- Health and wellbeing
- Strong resilient community
- A city working together
- Zero carbon and sustainable transport
- Zero waste
- Land use and wildlife
- Sustainable food, water and materials

The policy promotes the council values of working together to improve and make a difference.