

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



# **Social Value Policy**

[DATE ADOPTED]

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This Policy outlines our approach to ensuring that our resources are used strategically in achieving Social Value.

## 2 What is Social Value?

- 2.1 Social Value is about maximising the impact of public expenditure to get the best possible outcomes. Those outcomes can be set by us, subject to prescribed outcomes set by legislation.
- 2.2 Common examples of Social Value are creation of local jobs and apprenticeships, promoting environmental sustainability, encouraging community engagement and investment and addressing health and wellbeing challenges.
- 2.3 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires us to consider how the services we procure in 'above threshold'<sup>1</sup> procurements might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our Council area and to consider the way that the procurement process might secure these benefits.
- 2.4 The new procurement regime introduced by the Procurement Act 2023 will be bringing in greater focus and obligations in considering Social Value and how it is delivered through procurement processes.
- 2.5 We intend to approach Social Value in a manner that goes wider than the legislative requirement, asking the question:

*"In delivering our functions, can the public funds used to deliver those functions also produce a wider benefit to the community?"*

## 3 Delivering Social Value

We shall do as follows:

- 3.1 Consider how all above threshold procurements (i.e. for goods, services and works contracts) undertaken by us might improve the economic, social and

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<sup>1</sup> Above threshold has the same meaning as set out in the Council's Contract Standing Orders, meaning the estimated contract values above which the full statutory procurement regime must be applied to the procurement of that contract

environmental wellbeing of our Council area and to consider the way that the procurement process might secure these benefits, having regard to relevance and proportionality;

- 3.2 Integrate the requirements of the National Procurement Policy Statement issued pursuant to section 13(3)(c) of the Procurement Act 2023 into the Council's procurement processes;
- 3.3 Develop and adopt a Social Value and Sustainability Outcomes and Implementation Framework (to be adopted within 2025/2025) which we apply to strategically consider how public funds can be used to deliver our functions in a manner that produce a wider benefit to our community; and
- 3.4 Develop a matrix for measuring and reporting on the Social Value that we deliver.

#### **4 Objectives**

Our objectives in delivering Social Value and developing a Social Value and Sustainability Outcomes and Implementation Framework are as follows:

- 4.1 Help support the delivery of the priorities within our Corporate Strategy including promoting economic growth, protecting our environment and supporting our communities;
- 4.2 Interlink with other Council policies, services and projects to drive and support their aims and objectives, including the West Norfolk Economic Strategy, the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the 'Marmot Place' project and our leisure and cultural services;
- 4.3 Involve local people, organisations and beneficiaries in how we meet the needs of communities via the delivery of our functions and the procurement and management of relevant contracts;
- 4.4 Raise the profile and understanding of Social Value within the Council, the marketplace and local communities; and
- 4.5 Take account of the social and economic benefits of buying locally, particularly through local supply chains, such as reducing unemployment and raising the skill level of the local workforce, and the need for positive action in the development of local small and micro businesses, voluntary groups and social enterprises.

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## **5 Principles of the Policy**

The following principles underpin our Policy:

### *Leadership*

- 5.1 To ensure key messages are effectively communicated and progress is monitored with strong leadership, guidance and co-ordination, making sure we deliver Social Value in a way that is straightforward and simple to understand.

### *Creativity*

- 5.2 To use Social Value as a platform to encourage innovation, both within and external to the Council. Also to recognise that that anybody, or any organisation, has the potential to add Social Value no matter their size or make up.

### *Flexibility*

- 5.3 To embed flexibility and a 'can do' approach to Social Value to secure the best possible outcomes by opening up the procurement process to a broader range of organisations and businesses.

### *Collaboration*

- 5.4 To develop a shared vision for Social Value between internal stakeholders within the Council and externally between the Council, local communities, external stakeholders and other local organisations and businesses.

### *Equality*

- 5.5 To ensure that groups with protected characteristics participate in shaping, delivering and monitoring our Social Value Policy.

### *Sustainability*

- 5.6 To recognise longer-term sustainability outcomes may prove more advantageous than simply seeking immediate benefits.

## **6 Reviewing our Social Value Policy**

- 6.1 We will review this Social Value Policy when we have developed the Social Value and Sustainability Outcomes and Implementation Framework.

## **7 Version Control**

This table should be included at the end of the policy, on a separate page.

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|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------|
| Policy name         |                        |                   |        |             |
| Policy description  |                        |                   |        |             |
| Responsible Officer |                        |                   |        |             |
| Version number      | Date formally approved | Reason for update | Author | Review date |
|                     |                        |                   |        |             |
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