

Social Value Policy

1. The purpose and remit of the contracting authority

- 1.1 The Councils' Social Value Policy sets out the key principles and actions whereby the Council seeks to embed practical and effective commissioning for social value in every aspect of procurement starting at the pre commissioning stage.
- 1.2 Under the provision of the Public Service (Social Value) Act 2012 (the Act) Telford and Wrekin Council (the Council) is required to consider whether to consult on how the economic, social and environmental well-being of the borough might be improved through commissioning and procurement. It must consider only those matters that are relevant to what is being proposed to be procured and it must be proportionate in all the circumstances to take those matters into account.
- 1.3 The Act complements the Department for Communities and Local Government's statutory guidance on the Best Value Duty which requires Councils to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard for a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 1.4 Although the Act only requires Councils to consider social value in service contracts (and goods or works where service is the major element) above the EU procurement threshold, the principles should be considered in all commissioning and procurement activity.
- 1.5 This Policy will be reviewed annually by Strategic Procurement

2. The Strategic Context

- 2.1 The strategic context for social value outcomes comes from the Councils priorities shown here with example of how Social Value can help deliver them;
 - We will protect and create jobs as a 'Business Supporting, Business Winning Council'
 - *supporting all sectors accessing contracts opportunities*
 - We will protect and support our vulnerable children and adults
 - *listen to the service users voice pre procurement at the commissioning and evaluation stage*
 - We will improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and address health inequalities

- *work with communities to identify need that social value can address*
- We will ensure that neighbourhoods are safe clean and well maintained
 - *working with communities and providers in such as way as to reduce demand for services*
- We will improve local peoples projects through education skills and training
 - *Where appropriate consider targeted recruitment and training opportunities and curriculum support in various sectors*
- We will put our children and young people first
 - *Involve the users in service design*
- We will regenerate those neighbourhoods in need and work hard to ensure local people have access to affordable housing
 - *Consider community and social enterprise along side provider social value*

3. Implementation

3.1 The Council will embed a clear message about our intention to secure social value through our commissioning and procurement every time we communicate with the market place. For each commissioning exercise, specifications will be reviewed to examine:

- Why the service is being delivered is it still relevant and what is to be achieved?
- If appropriate, undertake service user community or marketplace consultation or research to confirm needs and create opportunity for co design and production
- What are the additional social value outcomes we should be seeking to derive from this particular commissioning project
- How third parties can help deliver social value as added value of the contract
- How we can measure the value added

3.2 These intentions are reflected in the procurement process through:

- engaging with the market about how to realise the whole service package including those aspects that can increase the social value in the project, prior to tender issue,
- All requirements over £10k being advertised on the Council's web page and via twitter to encourage all types of providers including social enterprises, voluntary organisations and SMEs to bid for contracts

- Holding 'Getting Tender Ready' events to support right first time bid submissions and support providers accessing wider tender opportunities
- Best endeavours being made to include a local supplier on the invitation to quote list for any contracts over £10k
- Procurement documents have been amended to ensure that smaller providers are not excluded by unnecessarily high thresholds for Insurances and financial arrangements where appropriate
- The Council publishing its commissioning and procurement intentions on the website so the communities can plan and prepare for involvement
- Ensuring added social value forms part of the evaluation process of the tender in a manner that is proportionate and relevant and that these become key performance indicators for the subsequent contract
- Having Services Users and Communities involved in the evaluation where appropriate
- Adopt mechanisms for measuring the performance of the services including social value requirements that are linked to the way that services are paid for under the relevant contract
- Learning from the performance of the contract about how best to develop social value requirements through a progressive change control mechanism in the contract and also to assist practice in subsequent procurement exercises.
- The collection and evaluation of social value achievements to measure how the Council has maximised the impact of the Borough £.

4. Desirable Targets

- 4.1 Adoption of a social value policy will help contribute to:
- creating skills and targeted training opportunities such as apprenticeships or work experience
 - creating employment opportunities for young people, long term unemployed, former carers, care leavers or NEETS
 - creating supply chain opportunities for SME and social enterprises
 - creating opportunities to develop sustainable third sector organisations
 - encouraging community engagement
 - Suppliers engaging with communities and schools by offering curriculum support in sharing their expertise and knowledge about their discipline
 - Working with suppliers to ensure that there are practical tools and relevant tools in place to assist with measuring and reporting social value that do not have a negative

5. Reporting on social value

- 5.1 The Council will report on how the above social value targets have been achieved through direct or associated commissioning and procurement activities on an annual basis.
- 5.2 Reporting will be through Service Delivery Managers to their Assistant Directors and on to Portfolio Holders
- 5.3 From January 2015 the Procurement Team will hold copies of all above threshold procurement reports and these reports will detail how, if applicable, social value was considered in the process and how it is to be measured through the contract.