

Leicestershire County Council

Social Value Policy Statement 2018

1. What do we mean by Social Value?

Social Value is the added value secured from the delivery of local services and supplies that can help to deliver additional social, environmental or economic benefits. For Leicestershire, such benefits are represented in the County Council's Strategic Plan¹ as follows:

- a) **A strong economy:** Leicestershire's economy is growing and resilient so that people and businesses can fulfil their potential
- b) **Wellbeing and opportunity:** The people of Leicestershire have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing
- c) **Keeping people safe:** People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm
- d) **Great Communities:** Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.
- e) **Affordable and quality homes:** Leicestershire has a choice of quality homes that people can afford.

Leicestershire County Council provides services and secures supplies to support delivery of these strategic outcomes, which often deliver more than the originally specified outcomes and outputs. Such additional benefits frequently create a positive impact for local communities at no additional cost, with benefits such as local employment, free training for local volunteers, or a reduction in carbon emissions all practical examples of what can be described as Social Value.

For the purposes of this Policy, Social Value is defined as **“The additional benefits for the public and communities of Leicestershire that arise over and above those immediately associated with directly purchased goods, works and services”**.

We can get added value from our investments and we recognise that our providers and suppliers also share our ambition to improve the lives of Leicestershire people.

2. Why do we think it is important?

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 mandates that we consider how Social Value could be captured within service contracts with a value in excess of £181,302². We understand that by using Social Value appropriately we can stretch the Leicestershire pound and bring greater value to our contracts by identifying and capturing activity that is of little or no cost to a supplier/provider, but high strategic importance to Leicestershire.

This Social Value policy will help Leicestershire County Council to achieve more of our strategic aims with the same money. It recognises the role that staff, stakeholders, citizens, suppliers and providers can play in achieving better and greater outcomes; from reducing the number of individuals not in education, employment or training, or greater support to vulnerable residents, to spending money within the local economy, and increasing the level of apprenticeships within Leicestershire. Social Value provides the policy context to take advantage of new and creative opportunities to work with others, and to extract the maximum value of the aims of Leicestershire County Council as set out in its Strategic Plan.

¹ As set out in 'Working together for the benefit of everyone: Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22'

² EU procurement threshold at time of publication policy and is subject to change

3. How will we use Social Value?

We need to proactively identify and capture Social Value within commissioning, procurement/sourcing, and contract management activity, and also in the way we work internally as an authority. Consideration of Social Value will help providers and suppliers to identify opportunities to deliver to multiple Council outcomes. For example could a Social Care service be used to create work opportunities for school leavers? Could a large waste contract be shaped to offer support to local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) providers by offering free bid writing training to the sector? Could a County wide Public Health contract be delivered on a carbon neutral basis? Could a corporate stationary contract encourage a supplier to ring-fence a percentage of its supply chain requirements for Leicestershire businesses?

It is our intention to exceed the statutory requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act. We will work towards considering and capturing Social Value within any requirement equal to or in excess of £50,000, for goods, works and services. We will do this in the following ways:

- a) Internally: We will become more proactive in our use of Social Value to deliver multiple outcomes. As examples, we will consider Social Value when comparing different delivery channels, embed Social Value in our wider policies and procedures, consider how grants can both capture and support existing Social Value initiatives, and use partnership working to encourage a consistent approach to Social Value across partner organisations.
- b) Throughout the commissioning process: By engaging and working with stakeholders, partners, suppliers, providers and citizens (as appropriate) to ask 'how this requirement could better be shaped to bring wider benefits for Leicestershire'? Additionally we will develop the use of Health Impact Assessments to maximise our Social Value opportunities and inform both decision making processes and specifications.
- c) At the procurement stage: Through either the use of Social Value requirements as award criteria to evaluate the merits of respective bids, and/or stipulating Social Value performance requirements that align with the Council's strategic outcomes within the contract. It is not the intention of the Council to impose Social Value requirements on suppliers and providers that will create additional cost.
- d) During contract management: Through closer contract management of our suppliers and providers we will seek further opportunities for them to provide increased Social Value.

4. What do we consider to be our Social Value priorities?

The following strategies are relevant to our Social Value policy by either defining or directly influencing our social, environmental and economic priorities:

- a) The Strategic Plan 2018-2022, which sets out the vision and strategic outcomes for the people of Leicestershire.
- b) The Communities Strategy 2017- 2021, which identifies ways to enhance self-help, increase community resilience, and support the devolution of services.

5. What do we want to achieve?

By proactively working to secure Social Value within our work, the intention is to help **deliver the Council's strategic outcomes** as defined in the Strategic Plan.

In addition the intention is to **develop the Leicestershire market**, from small charities and businesses to social enterprises and beyond. It may be necessary to support organisations to a position where they are able to participate in the market. This may entail consortia approaches as well as looking at ways to enhance co-operation and collaboration.

6. How are we going to capture and measure Social Value?

At strategic level the effective use of Social Value will contribute towards the outcome measurements detailed in our Strategic Plan, and at operational level individual contract management data will evidence any Social Value related continuous improvement. As we become more experienced in our use of Social Value, we will;

- a) Build a database that details the Social Value outputs we have captured at the procurement or contract management stage of the procurement cycle. This will be regularly distributed both internally and externally to ensure that Social Value outputs are utilised to their maximum potential.
- b) Build a suite of case studies to practically demonstrate a range of approaches and outputs we have achieved through the use of Social Value.
- c) Consider and trial Social Value measurement (combining narratives with statistical data), which will ultimately allow more sophisticated use of Social Value returns within both commissioning and procurement processes.

7. Our commitment

We will always work to ensure that our Social Value related activity is aligned to the Council's Strategic Plan and is compliant with all relevant legal requirements. In particular, whilst we consider Social Value to be about improving local social, economic and environmental wellbeing, we will ensure that all our actions meet with the Council values of openness and transparency, trust and respect, positivity, and flexibility.

8. Review of this Policy

We will review this Policy on a regular basis and updated this as necessary as we continue to learn from our experience of embedding Social Value.

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