



South Somerset District Council

Social Value Policy

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Table 1: Version History

VERSION	CHANGE	DATE
1.1	DRAFT – MIRIAM KIRCHBERGER	8/03/2021
1.2	REVISIONS – MICHAEL O'HALLORAN AND BRENDAN DOWNES	24/05/2021
1.3	REVISIONS – MIRIAM KIRCHBERGER	08/09/2021

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Social Value Policy

1. Introduction

Social Value for South Somerset is about more than driving a hard bargain when procuring services – it is an active working out of our council vision, aims and themes as expressed in our Council Plan.

Purpose and background

- 1.1. In light of Covid-19, the role of Councils as economic actors will be crucial in restarting local economies. SSDC is committed to including Social Value into the way procurement decisions are made to ensure the Council meets the goals set out in our Council Plan, Environment Strategy, Economic Development Strategy and Recovery Strategy.
- 1.2. South Somerset District Council is required to consider, before commencing any procurement process, how the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the district may be improved through the procurement of its services as part of the Public Service (Social Value) Act 2012. The aim of the Act is not to alter the commissioning and procurement processes, but to ensure that, as part of these processes, the Council gives consideration to the wider impact of service delivery.
- 1.3. This policy establishes a consistent and collaborative approach to Social Value with the vision to create, deliver and sustain greater community benefits through the use of Social Value in our authority and district.
- 1.4. The purpose of this policy is to formally embed the consideration Social Value into all procurement conducted by the Council, in line with the priorities in the Council Plan. This is also reflected in the Council's Procurement Strategy and supported by the Contract Standing Orders.
- 1.5. In 2019, SSDC engaged the Social Value Portal to work collectively to embed and develop the Social Value and the TOMs framework into our procurement activity.

2. Defining Social Value

- 2.1. As the Public Service (Social Value) Act 2012 Act does not define what is meant by "Social Value" the Council will adopt the definition of Social Value as set out by the Social Value Portal¹. Social Value is described as follows:

"Social Value serves as an umbrella term for these broader effects, and organisations which make a conscious effort to ensure that these effects are positive can be seen as adding Social Value by contributing to the long-term wellbeing and resilience of individuals, communities and society in general."
- 2.2. This Social Value policy seeks to promote the following aims through South Somerset's procurement activity:

¹ The Social Value Portal is an organisation established to promote better business and community wellbeing through the integration of Social Value into day to day business and the uptake of The Social Value Act.

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- 2.2.1. Support the future prosperity of South Somerset, its businesses and all its citizens
- 2.2.2. Enhance social opportunity and cohesion in a dynamic and changing business environment
- 2.2.3. Help to develop improvements for disadvantaged neighbourhoods and people
- 2.2.4. Create and maintain a sustainable, clean, safe and attractive environment for living, work and leisure

3. Social Value Outcomes

- 3.1. The Council Plan 2020-2024, the Environment Strategy, the Economic Development Strategy and Recovery Strategy set out the Aims, Values, Themes and Focus for the Council. Delivery of this policy will support all five Themes of the Council Plan and in particular the ambition to “Embed Social Value into all processes and activities to ensure we maximise the support we give to our communities”.
- 3.2. Delivery of the Council priorities through use of our procurement power which ensures maximum benefit for our local communities when letting contracts.
- 3.3. Defining Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) to reflect both organisational and wider societal priorities creates the “golden thread” from strategy to delivery. This is needed to set a framework in which stakeholders, business and community partners can engage to support the Council’s Social Value objectives and deliver measurable change.
- 3.4. The Council procures a wide range of goods and services, and it is recognised that there can be a no “one size fits all” model. The policy will need to be applied in a proportionate manner and be tailored to reflect the works, service or goods to be procured. It is the role of commissioners and procuring officers to consider, on a contract by contract basis, the potential Social Value outcomes that could be delivered through the procurement process and the most appropriate procurement strategy to achieve this.
- 3.5. Where appropriate in its procurement activities, the Council will specify Social Value outcomes that are proportionate and relevant to the specification of the service required and will evaluate tenders in accordance with those Social Value outcomes and specification.

4. How we apply and measure Social Value

- 4.1. The Council has identified the commodity areas where there is greater scope for local supply market engagement or to drive environmental opportunity in the Commodity and Supplier Risk matrix. This provides a broad framework of where specific Social Value opportunities may have the greatest return. However, Social Value is considered on all significant contracts on their individual merit.
- 4.2. The Council is committed to a performance and evidence-based approach to Social Value and uses the National TOMs framework which provides quantitative measures of Social Value. Therefore bidders are required to

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propose credible and tangible targets against which contracts are awarded and the performance (for the successful bidder) will be monitored.

4.3. SSDC has developed a TOMs shortlist which reflects the Council's priorities. By adapting the National TOMs, the Council is able to measure, manage and maximise the delivery of Social Value internally without having to consult third parties for evaluation or reporting of contractualised Social Value. By using the National TOMs in its framework, the Council is using a broadly understood framework which ensures a fairer and consistent process for all bidders.

4.4. The Social Value policy asks contractors to consider where and how their activities can have a social impact. Examples of Social Value outcomes that could be achieved are shown in Appendix 1. **The examples listed are not exhaustive and could be expanded where relevant.**

4.5. SSDC has set a minimum weighting for Social Value as 10% of the overall price and quality evaluation criteria when evaluating tenders. This will apply for the financial year 2021/22 and is subject to review on an annual basis.

4.6. **Table 2** below sets out further detail around processes by value:

Value	Contract Duration	Process	Potential Outcomes	Evaluation and Monitoring
Sub-OJEU	<6 months	Light touch Social Value will be included, using SSDC own system to measure Social Value	Expectations may not be specific to a project but take into account what the organisation does as a whole. The weighting as identified in section 4.5..	Social Value proposals and subsequent delivery will be evaluated and monitored internally by SSDC, using the SSDC TOMs framework.
Sub-OJEU	>6 months	Managers will be required to ensure that Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs) are included within the procurement process. It is an expectation that Social Value will apply to procurement requirements that fall within this threshold and any exceptions to this rule must be authorised by the Procurement Specialist	Businesses may be expected to respond to the range of opportunities contained within the TOMs matrix. They will be assessed on their project specific proposals The weighting as identified in section 4.5..	Social Value proposals and subsequent delivery will be evaluated and monitored internally by SSDC, using the SSDC TOMs framework.

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OJEU or over	Generally >6 months but assessed on a case by case basis.	Procuring officers will guide specifications and tender documents to ensure that considerations for Social Value is made at the procurement/commissioning stage and that TOMs are included within the tender process, ensuring that the evaluation scores and weightings are clearly set out and that an action plan is implemented during the contract period.	Businesses will be expected to respond fully to the TOMs matrix and commit to project specific deliverables that will be included in KPIs. The weighting as identified in section 4.5. Weightings above the minimum threshold are used where contract price is set, or there is a specific opportunity around Social Value to solve a specific need.	Social Value proposals and subsequent delivery may be evaluated and monitored internally by the Social Value Portal where feasible.
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5. Scope

- 5.1. The Council adopts the parameters set out in table 2 which is applied flexibly to ensure that Social Value sought from a contract is relevant and proportionate in respect of the proposed contract.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. In discharging its statutory duties, procuring officers are required to consider whether consultation should take place when commissioning, so as to allow the community and voluntary sectors to be more closely involved in order to support in improving the South Somerset's economic, social and environmental well-being.

7. Responsibility

- 7.1. The Social Value Policy is owned and developed by the Procurement team who report to the Director for Strategy and Support Services. All procurement decisions are authorised in line with the Council's constitution and are managed through the procurement processes, as set out in the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

8. Monitoring and Review

- 8.1. Social Value delivery will be reported by the Procurement team and may also be reported in specific reports on delivery against the Council Plan and where appropriate through the Portfolio Holders responsible for individual projects.
- 8.2. The Council will periodically review its Social Value Policy in consultation with key stakeholders. In doing so it will take into account any changes in legislation pertaining to the Social Value Act 2012, Public Contracts Regulations and the Council Plan.

Appendix 1: SSDC TOMs Shortlist

Council Theme	Potential outcomes	Potential measures
<p style="text-align: center;">Assist businesses to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic whilst supporting growth within the South Somerset economy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">More local people in employment</p>	<p>No. of local direct employees (FTE) which are TUPE transfers retained on contract for one year or the whole duration of the contract, whichever is shorter (re-tendered contracts only - to be used at Measurement)</p>
		<p>No. of local direct employees (FTE) hired or retained (for re-tendered contracts) on contract for one year or the whole duration of the contract, whichever is shorter</p>
		<p>Percentage of local employees (FTE) on contract</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">More opportunities for disadvantaged people</p>	<p>No. of employees (FTE) hired on the contract who are long term unemployed (unemployed for a year or longer) as a result of a recruitment programme</p>
		<p>No. of armed forces veterans employees (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme who are long term unemployed (unemployed for a year or longer) and are facing specific barriers to transitioning to civilian employment that do not qualify them as disabled (e.g. long term service)</p>
		<p>No. of homeless employees (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme</p>
		<p>No. of parents returning to work (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme who are long-term unemployed (unemployed for a year or longer) - (when the mother is the primary carer)</p>
		<p>No. of survivors of modern slavery employees (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme</p>
		<p>No. of employees (FTE) hired on the contract who are Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEETs) as a result of a recruitment programme</p>
		<p>No. of 16-25 y.o. care leavers (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme</p>

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		No. of 18+ y.o. employees (FTE) hired on the contract who are rehabilitating or ex offenders as a result of a recruitment programme
		No. of 18-24 y.o. employees (FTE) hired on the contract who are rehabilitating young offenders as a result of a recruitment programme
		No. of disabled employees (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme
		No. of armed forces veterans employees (FTE) hired on the contract as a result of a recruitment programme who are disabled and are facing specific barriers to transitioning to civilian employment (e.g. physical injury, medical discharge, psychological condition)
		No. of hours of support into work provided to unemployed people through career mentoring, including mock interviews, CV advice, and careers guidance -(over 24 y.o.)
	Improved skills	
		No. site visits for school children or local residents
Improved skills for disadvantaged people		No. of weeks of training opportunities on the contract (BTEC, City & Guilds, NVQ, HNC) that have either been completed during the year, or that will be supported by the organisation until completion in the following years - Level 2,3, or 4+
		No. of weeks of apprenticeships on the contract that have either been completed during the year, or that will be supported by the organisation until completion in the following years - Level 2,3, or 4+
Improved skills for a low carbon transition		Support a 'just transition' for workers by supporting those in 'traditional' high carbon industries to retrain
		No. weeks on the contract of apprenticeships relating to the low carbon economy - opportunities either to be completed during the year, or that will be supported by the organisation to completion in the following years - Level 2,3, or 4+
Improved employability of young people		No. of hours dedicated to support young people into work (e.g. CV advice, mock interviews, careers guidance) - (under 24 y.o.)
		Employer's fairs held to encourage local employment in the area
		No. of weeks spent on meaningful work placements or pre-employment course; 1-6 weeks student placements (unpaid) –

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Council Theme	Potential outcomes	Potential measures
Keep South Somerset clean, green and attractive and respond to the climate and ecological emergency	Carbon emissions are reduced	Savings in CO2 emissions (or carbon emission equivalent) on contract achieved through de-carbonisation (specify how these are to be achieved)
		Policy and programme to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 including monitoring plan with specific milestones (issued or to be issued by the end of 2020)
		Carbon savings from energy efficiency measures on site (e.g. increased use of renewables)
		Offset embodied carbon emissions from construction material
		Embodied Carbon reductions in CO2e emissions against baseline
		Carbon Certification (Carbon Trust Standard, Planet Mark or equivalent independently verified) - achieved or to achieve for current year
		Carbon reductions through energy efficiency measures or renewables - building operations - (e.g. REEB benchmark or 3 year baseline)
		Percentage of buildings meeting target (Building use less energy and are more energy efficient)
	Air pollution is reduced	Car miles saved on the project as a result of a green transport programme or equivalent (e.g. cycle to work programmes, public transport or car pooling programmes, etc.)
		Car miles driven using low or no emission staff vehicles included on project as a result of a green transport programme
		Corporate travel schemes available to employees on the contract (subsidised public transport, subsidised cycling schemes and storage, sustainable corporate transport such as electric bus from public station to corporate facilities)
		Percentage of fleet or construction vehicles on the contract that is at Least Euro 6 or LEV
	Safeguarding the natural environment	Offsets or mitigation initiatives on biodiversity delivered whenever restoration is not available, and when implemented beyond legislative or regulatory requirements: Natural Capital Approach carbon sequestration and air quality benefits

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		Plastic recycling rate on the contract (to e.g. reduce microplastics)
	Resource efficiency and circular economy solutions are promoted	Support provided internally and to MSMEs and VCSEs within the supply chain to adopt Circular Economy solutions - business case and leadership for circular economy
		Single-use plastic packaging eliminated through reusable packaging solutions or schemes (e.g. Loop or equivalent) on the contract
		Value of local partnerships to implement circular economy solutions
		Waste management verification policies: audit hierarchy, downstream audits for waste stream
		WATER: Percentage of buildings meeting good practice benchmark (e.g. REEB)
		M3 water saved against relevant benchmark (e.g. REEB)
		WASTE: Percentage of buildings meeting good practice benchmark (e.g. REEB)
		Percent of waste diverted against relevant benchmark (e.g. BREEAM)
	Tonnes of waste diverted against relevant benchmark (e.g. BREEAM)	
	Sustainable Procurement is promoted	Percentage of procurement contracts that includes sustainable procurement commitments or other relevant requirements and certifications (e.g. to use local produce, reduce food waste, and keep resources in circulation longer.)
		Percentage of contracts with the supply chain requiring contractors to operate low or zero emission vehicles
		Supply Chain Carbon Certification (Carbon Trust Standard for Supply Chain or equivalent independently verified) - achieved or to achieve for current year
		Requirements or support (for Micro or Small enterprises) for suppliers to demonstrate climate change and carbon reduction training for all staff - e.g. SDGs Academy courses (NTs) or (e.g. RE) Supply Chain Sustainability School bronze or higher or equivalent
	More buildings are certified	Percentage of NEW buildings achieving BREEAM Rating
Percentage of assets that have undergone a climate risk assessment		
Percentage of assets where sustainability risk has been reduced		
Percentage of buildings achieving BREEAM IN-USE		

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Council Theme	Potential outcomes	Potential measures
Enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life	Crime is reduced	Initiatives aimed at reducing crime (e.g. support for local youth groups, lighting for public spaces, private security, etc.)
	Creating a healthier community	Initiatives to be taken to tackle homelessness (supporting temporary housing schemes, etc.)
		Initiatives to support rough sleepers - including training for security and night staff, opening up facilities spaces (e.g. showers or additional beds when temperature drops) after hours
		Initiatives taken or supported to engage people in health interventions (e.g. stop smoking, obesity, alcoholism, drugs, etc.) or wellbeing initiatives in the community, including physical activities for adults and children
	Vulnerable people are helped to live independently	Initiatives to be taken to support older, disabled and vulnerable people to build stronger community networks (e.g. befriending schemes, digital inclusion clubs)
	More working with the Community	Donations or in-kind contributions to local community projects (£ & materials)
		No. of hours volunteering time provided to support local community projects