

Social Value and Sustainable Procurement Policy

What is Social Value?

‘Social value’ is a way of thinking about how scarce resources are allocated and used. It prompts us to ask the question “If £1 is spent on delivery of services, can that same £1 be used to also produce a wider benefit to the community?” As well as focusing on price, it helps us to consider the collective benefit to the community and wider social, economic and environmental outcomes (e.g. stronger communities, improved health, improved environment) that can be procured over and above the direct purchasing of services, goods and outcomes.¹

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, allows the Council to take into consideration, in the award of contracts, any offer of additional community benefit which is over and above the specified requirements, where these meet the Council’s objectives.

In Suffolk, social value helps to maximise the ‘Suffolk £’, by developing growth in the local economy, improving our environment and the health, wellbeing and safety of people in our communities.

Our Objectives: Delivering In 2022 - 26

- To promote and support the **health and wellbeing** of all people in Suffolk.
- To strengthen our **local economy**.
- To protect and enhance our **environment**.
- To provide **value for money** for the Suffolk taxpayer.

Alongside our corporate objectives we will also consider social value that will deliver outcomes in Suffolk to meet the National Procurement Policy Statement priorities.

We asked our commissioners how social value could be offered in Suffolk to meet our corporate objectives, a list of ideas regarding how you can provide social value in Suffolk is listed in our annual Social Value Ask².

Integrating Social Value into our processes

What we propose to do is:

- Support commissioners to carry out market engagement work at the pre-tender stage to engage with local stakeholders and potential contractors and, identify co-design and create social benefits from any subsequent contract;
- Where relevant and proportionate, continue to include social value in our tenders, determining how many points to allocate to the evaluation of social value on a case by case basis after market engagement;

¹ Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, A Brief Guide, Social Enterprise UK, 2012

² [Social Value | Suffolk County Council](#)

- To provide training to contractors and suppliers wishing to bid for contracts with the Council, regarding the tender process and how to bid for contracts including social value and its benefits for the Council;
- Expect potential contractors to build social value offers into their tender returns in response to our Social Value Ask, an ideas list regarding how social value can be delivered. The Ask is supported by more specific asks for each of the social value themes, the Skills Ask, the Wellbeing Ask ³and the Climate Change Commercial Ask;⁴
- For contractors to respond to our Social Value Asks rather than we prescribe specific actions that potential contractors should offer through tender submissions to maximise the potential options to add social value;
- During tender processes, provide opportunities for potential contractors to offer innovative approaches which match their ability to deliver wider benefits against our key priority areas, in ways relevant to the procurement in question and their organisation;
- To include a social value schedule within contracts, outlining the bidder's social value offer and how it will be measured; and,
- Contractors can expect to be monitored and contract managed on the implementation of their stated approach and delivery of outcomes post-award.

Evaluating Social Value

We will set out the number of points awarded for social value in the evaluation of each invitation to tender. However, the allocation of points is at the discretion of the commissioner and procurement lead and will vary depending upon the type of goods or services being tendered. A recommended weighting of 10% is suggested for above threshold procurements, where the weighting is less than 10% this must be agreed by the procurement lead.

What we are looking for from our contractors is :

- Creative and imaginative approaches to delivering social value in Suffolk;
- Evidence which gives us confidence that social value will be delivered; and,
- A clear focus on our three key priorities to deliver better social value outcomes for Suffolk.

Measurable Outcomes

Social value outcomes will be different for each contract depending on the service specification, desired outcomes, and what is reasonable, relevant and proportionate.

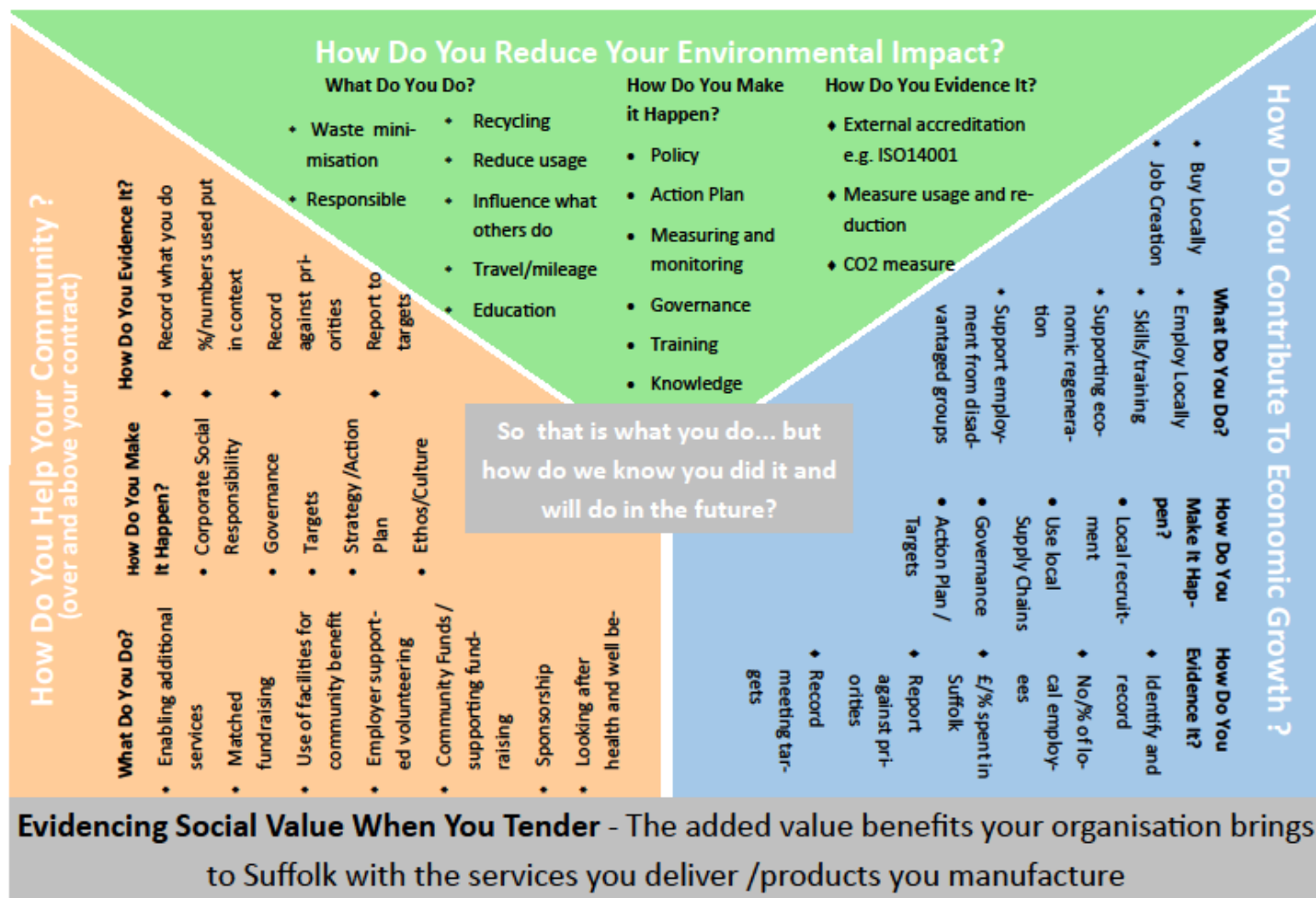
- The Commissioner and contractor should work together to co-create measures based on what the contractor included in their bid. However, the onus is on the bidder to propose key performance indicators in their bid which can be effectively monitored as part of on-going contract management;

³ [Social Value | Suffolk County Council](#)

⁴ [Climate Change Commercial Ask | Suffolk County Council](#)

- The final contract may contain enforceable provisions relating to the delivery of social value; and
- The contractor should be able to demonstrate that they have understood the contract and the authority's corporate objectives.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2 – Annual Social Value Ask

Suffolk County Council - our annual Social Value Ask

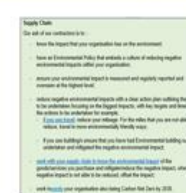


Skills Ask

Wellbeing Ask

Climate Change Commercial Ask




- An ideas list regarding how Social Value can be delivered in Suffolk to meet our corporate objectives
- Supported by a specific ask for each of the three Social Value themes
 - our Skills Ask
 - our Climate Change Commercial Ask
 - a Wellbeing Ask is being developed

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/tenders-and-supplying-us/social-value/>

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