

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 Priorities.

In Suffolk, social value helps to maximise the ‘Suffolk £’, develop growth in the local economy, improve our environment and health, wellbeing and safety by building stronger community resilience, mobility and improving educational attainment.

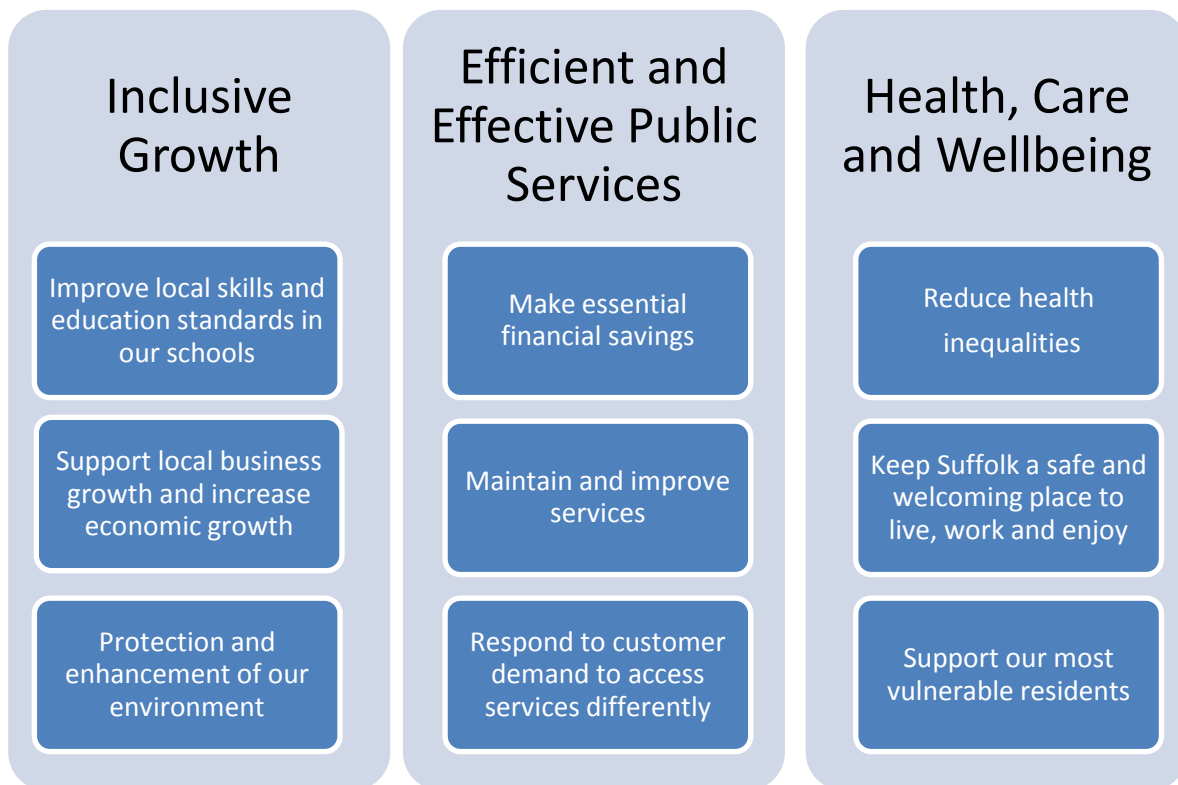


Fig 1 - Priorities and Outcomes © Suffolk County Council

<sup>1</sup> Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, A Brief Guide, Social Enterprise UK, 2012

## 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 providers 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 social value on a case by case basis after market engagement;
- To provide training to providers regarding the tender process and how to bid for contracts including social value and its benefits for the Council;
- Expect potential providers to build social value outcomes into their tender returns;
- Not to prescribe specific actions that potential providers should offer through tender submissions to maximise the potential options to add social value;
- During tender processes, provide opportunities for potential providers 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,
- Providers can expect to be monitored and managed on the implementation of their stated approach and delivery of outcomes post-award.

## Evaluating Social Value

We will set the number of points awarded for social value in each invitation to tender. However, the allocation of points is at the discretion of the commissioner and will vary depending upon the type of goods or services being tendered.

What we are looking for from our providers is:

- Creative and imaginative approaches to social value;
- 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 provider should work together to co-create measures based on what the provider included in their bid. However, the onus is on the provider to propose key performance indicators which can be effectively monitored as part of on-going contract management;
- The final contract may contain enforceable provisions relating to the delivery of social value; and
- The provider should be able to demonstrate that they have understood the contract and the authority's corporate priorities.

## Appendix 1

