



# Social Value Policy

# What is Social Value?

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to consider how they can secure additional wider social, economic and environmental benefits in addition to the core purpose of the service.

Social Value can be achieved by :-

- adding additional value to our local communities in the way that services are delivered.
- encouraging contractors and their supply chains to offer additional benefits to our communities over and above the specified contractual requirements.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils' (BMSDCs) aim to maximise the benefit of every pound the Councils spend. By committing beyond the requirements of the Act which legislates regarding the commissioning and procurement of high value (above threshold) service contracts, BMSDCs will deliver more benefits. BMSDCs will use Social Value as a tool to also deliver additional benefits to the communities of Babergh and Mid Suffolk in the way that the Councils operate.

## Our Social Value Commitment

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to embedding a Social Value approach into the culture of the Council. To deliver Social Value as an organisation in the way that we operate, embedding our values and ethos into our decision making, the services we deliver and our contracts in line with the Councils' corporate priorities.

On our Social Value journey, we aim to achieve: -

- Social Value additionality embedded into the activities of the Councils' and the way we operate
- understanding of the social impact of decisions
- measurable Social Value additionality delivered within our contracts, capital and infrastructure projects

to increase the positive social impact, in line with our corporate priorities within Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

To develop a Social Value culture is a significant change which will require commitment to a Social Value journey delivering consistent step changes. Our Social Value journey will be planned in a corporate Social Value Action Plan.

## Our Approach

The Councils' approach and priorities are outlined in the Councils' plans: -

- [Our Plan for Babergh : A more resilient and sustainable future for Babergh](#)
- [Helping to create thriving and resilient communities in Mid Suffolk](#)

We will develop Social Value Priorities to outline to stakeholders how Social Value can be delivered in Babergh and Mid Suffolk to meet the Councils' priorities and the Social Value national priority outcomes outlined in the National Procurement Policy Statement.

To ensure that we can evidence the Social Value delivered by both the way the Council operates and as additional benefits within our contracts, the Councils will develop an approach to have reporting and oversight of Social Value delivery.

## Social Value Within Our Contracts

### Procurement

Under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, the Councils

*“must consider -*

*a) how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area, and*

*b) how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement.”*

We will therefore encourage our contractors and their supply chain to deliver Social Value additional benefits within the geographical areas of Babergh and Mid Suffolk, which are the relevant areas as the operating areas of the Councils.

The Commissioning and Procurement Team templates, documents, tools and guidance will be reviewed and developed to ensure that it is clear to both colleagues, bidders and contractors that Social Value is front and centre to the Councils' approach to procurement.

In line with the Transforming Public Sector Procurement Programme and the Procurement Act 2023, the Councils will use the additional flexibilities in the new regulations to procure in more flexible and innovative ways to maximise the opportunities for local markets to bid for contracts with the Councils.

When we commission goods, services and works we will: -

- Consider how Social Value can be delivered in the way that the contract is delivered and take

this into consideration when drafting the contract specified requirements / specification.

- Take into consideration when we procure, how to encourage bid responses from local suppliers, including SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises) and the VCfSE, for example using Lots to offer smaller local contracts.
- Undertake market engagement to identify and consult with potential markets and use learning from the market engagement to ensure that our specified requirements are encouraging innovation, reducing negative environmental impacts and outlining cost effective solutions.
- Include an evaluation of Social Value additional benefits to the contract when competitive bids are evaluated.
- Use a separate weighting for each of the three main Social Value themes of Social, Economic and Environment to aid evaluation of the Social Value bid responses.
- Allocate weightings for Social Value on a case-by-case basis, aiming to use a total Social Value weighting of 10%. We will monitor the weightings used in procurements to ensure that where less than a 10% weighting is used, there is oversight of the reason why.
- Where appropriate include KPIs and enforceable provisions in our contracts regarding the delivery of Social Value.
- Use Social Value Schedules in our contracts to clearly outline the Social Value offers in successful bids, to ensure clarity in our contracts regarding Social Value contractual commitments.
- Support colleagues who have responsibility to contract manage our contracts, to contract manage

the Social Value commitments within our contracts to ensure delivery of contracted outcomes.

- Track and report progress regarding how Social Value is used in competitive bids.

## Capital and Infrastructure Projects

We will use both qualitative and quantitative Green Book methodology Social Value assessment within business cases development for pilot schemes and investments for capital and infrastructure projects. Using financial Social Value metrics as appropriate.

## Embedding A Social Value Culture

A Social Value training programme will be developed and delivered to support understanding of how Social Value can be used as a tool to realise genuine benefits for our communities in Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils. The training programme will offer training options to the Council staff, contractors and potential bidders.

A Social Value Network will provide virtual support to the Councils' staff regarding how to use Social Value and best practice examples of the potential opportunities and benefits of using a Social Value approach.

We will regularly benchmark our progress on our Social Value journey by using nationally recognised tools such as the Social Value Maturity Index and benchmark progress to peer Councils.

Regular progress updates will be shared on a

quarterly basis with the Councils' Senior Leadership Team and Councilor Portfolio Holders to ensure that they have oversight of the progress to embed a Social Value culture with the Councils.

Progress on the implementation of this policy including our key areas of focus, progress of our achievements and benefits realisation and our planned next steps for delivery will be outlined in an Annual Social Value Statement which we will publish on our website.

## Review

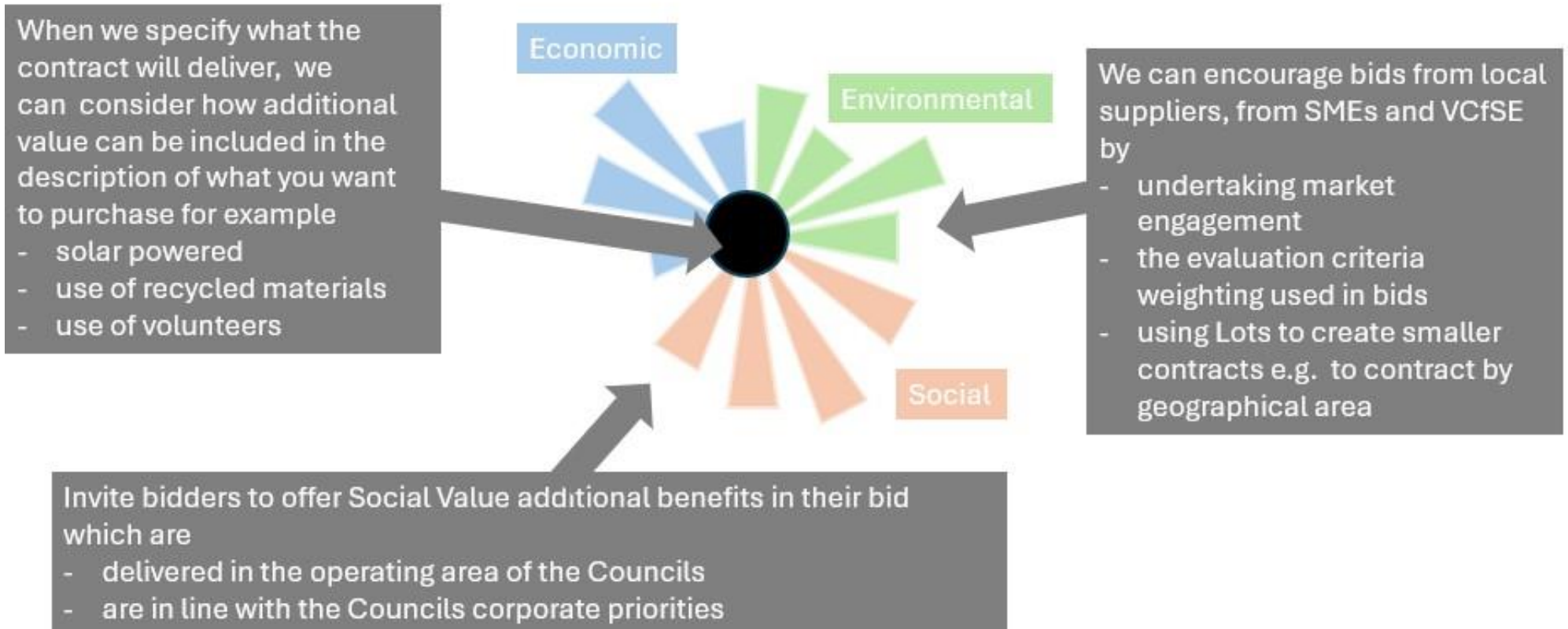
This policy will be reviewed on at least an annual basis to ensure that the policy is in line with any changes to legislation and any changes to the Councils' priorities.

## **Bibliography**

1. Public Services (Social Value ) Act 2012 - [Public Services \(Social Value\) Act 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
2. National Procurement Policy Statement - [National Procurement Policy Statement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
3. Social Value Statement - [Social Value Statement | Local Government Association](https://www.local.gov.uk)
4. Social Value Maturity Index - [Measure social value - SVMl Tool for the public sector - Social Value Portal](https://www.socialvalueportal.com)
5. Responsible Procurement Diagnostic - [Responsible Procurement Diagnostic — SPS Consultancy Services \(sps-consultancy.co.uk\)](https://www.sps-consultancy.co.uk)
6. Transforming Public Sector Procurement - [Transforming Public Procurement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
7. Procurement Act 2023 - [Procurement Act 2023 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)



# How to build Social Value into Contracts



# Contact us

Councils' information is also available in audio, Braille, large print or other formats. If you would like information in another format or language, please email us at:

[equalities@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Councils' website:**

[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

---

**Phone to be connected to any council service:** 0300 1234000

Our phone lines are open from 8.45am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. On Tuesdays, lines open at the slightly later time of 10.00am. We are closed on weekends and public holidays.