

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Social Value Policy 2025-27

Date: 29 January 2026

Author: Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Contract and Procurement Manager

Wards Affected

All Wards

Purpose

To seek approval of the Council's Social Value Policy approach 2025-27 prior to submission to Cabinet for approval.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the Social Value Policy at Appendix 1 to this report

1 Background

1.1 The Council has undertaken a complete review of its procurement function over the last 18 months. The review has resulted in a number of changes to the procurement function including the following:

- Changes to the Council's Procurement Rules to align with the Procurement Act 2023
- Adoption of a Procurement Strategy 2025-2027
- Training delivered to all officers responsible for procurement

- Recruitment of a Contract and Procurement Manager
- Appointment of Orbis procurement a shared service provider (SSP) to support the Council's procurement function.
- An internal audit of the Council's procurement function
- Changes to the Council's invitation to tender documents and standard contract terms
- A compliance audit on contract spend to ensure appropriate procurement processes were undertaken
- Adoption of an online contract management tool
- Update of the Council's contract's register

- 1.2 Within the Council's adopted Procurement Strategy, a commitment was made to deliver a policy and process to maximise social value opportunities through procurement. A draft Social Value Policy has now been prepared and is attached at Appendix 1. Approval of the Policy is required by Cabinet, but in order to ensure engagement on the policy there has been a consultation with Senior Leadership Team, Assistant Directors and Managers involved in procurement and the draft policy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration on 12 January 2025.
- 1.3 The Public Services (Social value) Act 2012 mandated that all procurements by public bodies which were over the public procurement thresholds should apply a 10% weighting of the evaluation score to the delivery of social value. The current procurement thresholds (from 1st January 2026) are £214,904 for goods and services. £5,372,609 for works and concessions contracts.
- 1.4 As the Procurement Act 2023 now requires contracts to be awarded on the basis of the "most advantageous tender", rather than the previous "most economically advantageous tender", the focus on what contractors can deliver as part of the contract is much wider. Social Value is a key component of a most advantageous tender and requires contractors to set out how they can deliver wider public benefit through the provision of their services.
- 1.5 The Council have sought social value through procurement processes for some time, however, with less and less resource available to the Council for delivering wider non-statutory public benefits, it is important that the Council leverages social value in a way that can enable it to support key non-statutory functions such as improving health and well-being,

providing opportunities for education, jobs and economic growth. The purpose of the Social Value Policy is to present a clear set of priorities that the Council wish contractors to support through social value. This structured approach enables a more effective evaluation of contracts and enables delivery of wider public benefit in a way which aligns with the Council's priorities.

1.6 The policy document itself sets out the explanation of social value and how the Council will seek to secure social value through the bidding process. It also provides a list of key requirements which contractors can select from as part of their social value submission. Providing a clear framework to contractors ensures that they can tailor their bids to meet Council priorities and should deliver specific targeted outcomes for residents within the borough.

1.7 This approach to securing social value effectively to compliment Council priorities is an approach supported by our SSP Orbis. The performance of the social value element of a contract will be managed through key performance indicators. It is likely that social value delivered on a contract for services in one area will also require engagement from managers in other areas, for example, a construction contract on a Council building may result in a contractor delivering apprenticeships or career guidance thereby supporting the functions of the Economic Growth team. If adopted, it is essential that teams work together to ensure delivery of social value outcomes.

1.8 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft policy earlier this month and were supportive of the policy document. Whilst no proposed changes were put forward, Committee did question the monitoring of delivery of social value as Committee were keen to ensure that contract management was effective. Committee also asked about how social value would be scored. A scoring matrix is already in place for procurement bids with each category (including social value) scored between 1-5 based on prescribed criteria. Clarifying what is required of social value with contractors through this policy will assist them in framing those bids.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approve the Social Value Policy at Appendix 1. This will enable more effective engagement and delivery of social value through procurement.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 Cabinet could choose not to approve the document or propose changes. Cabinet have already previously approved the Procurement Strategy which

has a social value policy and procedure development as an action within it. The policy has been prepared in consultation with our SSP, SLT, and officers involved with procurement, it has also been shared with Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is considered to be fit for purpose.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 In terms of the financial implications, whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from the preparation of this policy, it is expected that improvements to our approach to social value will deliver much wider public benefits.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Regard has been had to the Procurement Act 2023, Public services (Social Value) Act 2012 and statutory National Procurement Policy Statement in the preparation of this policy. All procurement activity must be undertaken in compliance with the Acts, the Council's Contract and Procurement Rules and should align with the Council's Procurement Strategy.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is shown at Appendix 2.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment is shown at Appendix 3.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Social Value Policy 2025-27

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None

10 Reasons for Recommendations

- 10.1 To ensure the Council has a robust strategy on how social value will be delivered in alignment with Gedling Plan/Corporate Plan priorities.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:
Date:
On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:
Date:
On behalf of the Monitoring Officer