



**BARNLSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

# SOCIAL VALUE POLICY 2025



**Healthy  
Barnsley**

**Learning  
Barnsley**

**Growing  
Barnsley**

**Sustainable  
Barnsley**

**Enabling  
Barnsley**

We are a modern, inclusive, efficient, productive and high-performing council

## Introduction

The Public Services (Social Value Act 2012) places a duty on the council to have regard to economic, social, and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts, and for connected purposes.

The Act puts a legal obligation on an authority to consider social value in all procurements that must comply with the Public Procurement Regulations 2015, and it should be considered in procurement below this threshold as good practice.

The Act requires the council to consider the following at pre-procurement stage as part of its obligations under the act:

1. How what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the “relevant area”
2. How in conducting a procurement process it might act with a view to securing that improvement
3. Consultation prior to procurement e.g., communities and users of services, local firms, voluntary sector and other local organisations.

When considering how a procurement process might improve the social, economic, or environmental well-being of a relevant area the council must only consider matters which are relevant to what is proposed to be procured. The council must also only consider those matters to the extent to which it is proportionate to the service to be delivered.

## Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure the council is complying with its duty and to maximise the benefits of the Act. The policy will serve to embed social value and make it the duty of everyone involved in commissioning, procurement, and project delivery to be responsible for social value outcomes. This will enable economic, social, and environmental well-being advantages for Barnsley and its citizens.

The policy will build on achievements already made in social value through commissioning and procurement by providing a council wide co-ordinated approach to and maximising the benefits of the potential of social value.

The policy will align with corporate priorities and outcomes in the [Council Plan 2030](#) and also our Enabling Barnsley strategy.

## The Social Value Outcomes

The social value policy will assist the council in achieving the following desired outcomes,

- Contribute to the achievement of the priorities and outcomes in the Our Council Plan 2024-27
- Maximise value for money on a whole life basis
- Generate benefits for the citizens of Barnsley
- Consolidate the work of the area councils and the work of volunteers
- Benefit the local economy
- Minimise damage to and enhance the local environment
- Encourage innovative approaches to social, environmental, health and economic issues in our borough
- Deliver sustainable solutions, benefiting our communities beyond the length of a contract
- Create job opportunities and improve skills in the borough e.g., apprenticeships etc. and training and development opportunities to upskill
- Encouraging a diversity in the market of suppliers and providers by ensuring procurement processes support, local and-small businesses, and the voluntary sector to participate.

## How Will the Council Build Social Value into Commissioning and Procurement Processes?

- Consider social value through a documented gateway process from the beginning of the commissioning and procurement process to ensure where appropriate social value is built into the delivery of any contract and not treated as an afterthought where social value outcomes are of secondary importance.
- Use the Local Government Association's National Social Value Taskforce 'National Themes, Outcomes and Measures' as the main method of classifying and evaluating social value (frequently referred to as the [National TOM's.](#)) Additional measures will be used where deemed appropriate.
- Use the commitment of bidders to deliver social value as part of the evaluation process. The scores achieved will contribute to determining the successful bidder.
- Contract manage the delivery of these commitments to ensure the social value identified is delivered
- Use reporting to document and measure the social value benefits achieved to promote both internally and externally.

- Continue to partner with [Go4Growth](#) a business development program designed specifically to aid smaller organisations in any sector to enter or grow in the public sector marketplace. The program is funded by Barnsley Council, meaning businesses can join the programme and access the support, guidance, tools, and resources on offer at no cost.
- Work with the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber to support all organisations to understand the local supply chain and opportunities to partner and work with others to drive local spend and social value.
- Work with South Yorkshire Supply Chain partners and organisations such as Barnsley CVS to drive engagement with SMEs and VSCEs to ensure they are enabled to bid for opportunities with the council and promote their added value offer.

The following actions should be considered at the pre-procurement stage by commissioners and procurers to a level appropriate to the procurement and social value achievable:

Consultation with:

- Stakeholders/Service Users to shape the specification, scope and outcomes
- Suppliers/Providers to understand what they can provide, and they are able to deliver and understand the council's objectives.

Consultation, if considered appropriate, needs to take into account the needs and requirements of the people and organisations being consulted, the size of the procurement and the likely social, environmental and economic impact of the procurement. Consultations should be “digital by default” and carried out online but the authority should consider the best way of getting the views of others who may not be familiar with digital processes.

Any pre-market consultation should ensure that no supplier/provider is disadvantaged through the tender process.

## **Designing the Service**

In designing the service and developing the specification, commissioners and procurers must understand how it might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the citizens and the Borough of Barnsley by:

- Aligning the procurement to the priorities and outcomes in the Our Council Plan 2024-27
- Enable innovation within commissioning and procurement to deliver social value outcomes
- Consider cross directorate initiatives to maximise the social value opportunities.

It is important when developing the specification that social value is considered in proportion to goods, services or works to be delivered ensuring the main objective of the procurement is achieved.

## **Innovation**

Innovative solutions which take into account wider economic, environmental and social concerns should be built into and sought from the procurement process enabling suppliers/providers to put forward alternative solutions or social benefits previously considered.

## **How Social Value will be achieved through the Commissioning and Procurement Process**

The council will ensure its commissioning and procurement as well as contract management processes embed social value by:

- Building social value and sustainability into business unit business plans
- Undertaking pre procurement market engagement to explain the concept of social value and to understand the markets' ability to deliver and what innovation they can deliver to inform the procurement strategy
- Specifying social value outcomes that are proportionate and relevant and evaluating tenders in accordance with those social value outcomes. The social value weighting in the tender evaluation should also be proportionate and consider the measure of both qualitative and quantitative commitments made
- Requiring potential suppliers/providers to identify social value committed outcomes during the procurement process and how they plan to deliver
- Building sustainable solutions into specifications and tender submissions
- Encouraging suppliers/providers to be innovative in their tender submissions and not restricting submissions to particular themes or outcomes
- Utilisation of the Council's Social Value Toolkit within the procurement process, where appropriate to drive best practice with all involved in the process.

## **Contract and Supplier Management**

The council will ensure the delivery of social value objectives and benefits through:

- Ensuring the tender documentation and contract specify the key performance indicators by which the delivery of social value can be measured. These should be proportionate to the value of the contract
- Effective and robust contract and supplier management to ensure social value commitments made in the commissioning and procurement processes are delivered following the award of contract, once the service is operational
- The collation of data related to social value from the management of contracts and suppliers to demonstrate the added benefits and effects of the delivery of social value objectives. Quarterly reporting of social value achievements and benefits by the contract manager, to be

collated centrally by the strategic purchasing, procurement and contract management function.

- Supporting suppliers to assist them in submitting their performance against selected targets.

## **Promoting Outcomes**

The council will ensure the visibility of social value delivered through:

- Internal reporting to business units on the specific contract commitments made and outputs achieved to demonstrate the value of social value delivered
- An annual report of the commitments made and delivered as added value through all of the contracts which have included social value, including case studies to highlight the benefits achieved.