



## Valuing North East Lincolnshire

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# Our approach to community benefit and social value

North East Lincolnshire Council 2023



**Stronger Economy: Stronger Communities. Together we can be stronger.**

# Introduction

## What do we mean by Community Benefit & Social Value?

Community benefit is where the council or its suppliers and partners, generate additional value from public spending for our communities or our place.

Social value is where public authorities are required to achieve community benefits through their procurement, which improves residents' quality of life through economic, social, and environmental means. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 outlines our statutory requirement to consider social value benefits in relation to contracts for services.

Local authorities and other commissioners of public services must consider how their services benefit people living in the local community, including any economic, social, and environmental benefits. Under the legislation, local authority commissioners must consider how they can improve the social impact of their public service contracts before they start the procurement process. In particular, the Act states that the authority considers:

- how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area, and
- how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement.

Although this is our only statutory requirement, as an organisation we believe we should go beyond social value and aim to provide additional community benefit through all our operations where possible.



# North East Lincolnshire Council

## 'Stronger economy and Stronger Communities'

We want to work in new ways with partners across all sectors, and with individuals, families, and communities to achieve our five high level outcomes, which are for all people in North East Lincolnshire to:

- **Reach their full potential through skills and learning.**
- **Benefit from a green economy and high-quality environment.**
- **Enjoy good health and wellbeing.**
- **Benefit from a strong local economy.**
- **Live in a safe environment, where they can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.**

We are committed to:

- **Doing things differently**

We will develop more targeted, tailored, and localised products and services. This will include considering all options: in-house, shared delivery as well as external contracts.

- **Working together**

We will work in partnership with our public service partners, housing associations, local businesses, voluntary and community organisations to achieve our common goals.

- **Equality and fairness**

We will focus on equality and fairness when pursuing our priorities, recognising the need to protect the most vulnerable in our communities and reduce inequality.



# North East Lincolnshire Council and Social Value

We adopted our first Social Value Policy in 2019. In it, we established our social value approach in procurement and contracting. We also set out our principles and aims to create an environment that enables communities to thrive and take greater ownership of the services that are important to them.

## Our principles

- Commitment to paying, as a minimum, the Living Wage.
- Partnership working to create opportunities to enhance our communities and improve lives.
- Considerations of sustainability and social value (social, economic, and environmental benefits) for North East Lincolnshire in all activity commissioned by the Council, coupled with value for money.

## Our 2019 aims were to:

- Involve local people and organisations in how we meet the needs of local communities through commissioning cycle.
- Tackle disadvantage and address inequalities of health, wealth, and opportunity across the borough.
- Promote the local economy by supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprises, and the voluntary and community sector to thrive.
- Further our sustainable procurement objectives to protect and enhance the environment.

## What have we achieved since 2019?

The covid pandemic had a significant impact on the council's ability to implement the policy, as resources were deployed to the emergency response. However, it also led to positive outcomes in terms of shared focus and improved working relationships across the North East Lincolnshire that will support the development of an improved approach in the future.

## Since 2019:

- Where possible, we have started to involve local citizens at the earliest opportunity in the commissioning process to identify solutions which offer social value outcomes. In 2022, we brought together our citizen engagement, commissioning, solution design, procurement, and other strategic functions together to ensure more consistent and collaborative approach to supporting front-line services that promotes wider involvement in decisions and solutions.
- We have started to involve the market to agree proportionate and relevant Social Value outcomes at the pre-procurement stage and ensured that they are linked to our strategic priorities.
- Our evaluation methodology, where relevant and appropriate, applies 10% of the quality element of the price/quality ratio to Social Value.
- In 2022/23 we spent 25% of the Council's total procurement budget with micro, small and medium size businesses, social enterprises, and voluntary/community organisations.
- We have worked with internal staff, the marketplace, and communities to improve understanding of Social Value during commissioning and procurement exercises.

## Our ethical expectations for those organisations working with the Council.

We expect suppliers and partners to adopt sound and legal employment terms, including high quality health and safety standards, ensuring fair and equal treatment in the workplace and evidence of working to employment and equality legislation. This includes practises which ensure modern slavery and child labour issues are positively addressed. This will be ensured throughout the tendering process.

# Our community benefit and Social Value ambitions for 2023 and beyond.

This policy is a continuation of the ambitions set out in our 2019 policy. Our core principles and ethical considerations remain the same, but for 2023 and beyond we are committed to widening our community benefit and social value ambitions.

We are committed to work with the community, partners, and the market to increase understanding of social value, community wealth creation and community benefit to inform decisions and solutions that are aligned to our organisational priorities. We want to ensure that social value, community wealth and community benefit are referenced and considered in council strategies and plans.

This policy provides guidance to Council officers in identifying the social value that can be achieved from their contracts and activity, and to inform organisations tendering for council contracts of the council's priorities in this area.

Our community benefit and social value ambitions are listed below under our high-level outcomes for North East Lincolnshire:

## All people in North East Lincolnshire reach their full potential through skills and learning.

- Influence and create inclusive and equitable access, education, employment, and career progress for our residents, including apprenticeships and work placements, growing the skills base, and promoting lifelong learning opportunities.
- Encourage and promote full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

NELC policies and strategies which support this outcome include the Skills Strategy and the Education and inclusion strategy.

## All people in North East Lincolnshire benefit from a green economy and high-quality environment.

- Protect and enhance the built and natural environment through sustainable, innovative, and resilient infrastructure and industry and the availability of good quality new or renovated housing for all. Promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy solutions and offering support for community energy schemes.
- Deliver the Zero Carbon and Natural Assets plans, promote and support opportunities for organisations, communities, and residents to respond to environmental challenges including transport, conservation, reuse, recycling, and energy saving.

NELC policies and strategies which support this outcome include the Natural Assets Plan, the Carbon Roadmap and the Green Space Strategy.

## All people in North East Lincolnshire enjoy good health and wellbeing.

- Work with partners to tackle disadvantage and address inequalities of health, wealth, and opportunity by targeting activity towards those most in need, prioritising our most vulnerable.

NELC policies and strategies which support this outcome include the Health and Wellbeing framework, the Public Health Assurance Framework and the Playing Fields Policy.

## All people in North East Lincolnshire benefit from a strong local economy.

- Support micro, small and medium sized enterprises, and the voluntary and community sector to develop and grow – enabling SMEs and VCSE organisations to feel able to participate in the tendering and procurement process.
- Promote inclusive growth by involving communities and local businesses in regeneration projects and programmes, particularly in our urban centres and offering opportunities to grow the community business sector.
- Promote opportunities for ethical recruitment, employment, and banking.
- Represent and champion NEL at a national level, promoting us as a place to live, work, invest and visit.
- Agree proportionate and relevant Social Value outcomes with the marketplace at the pre-procurement stage and ensure that they are linked to our strategic priorities.
- Where relevant and appropriate, ensure that our procurement methodology includes a minimum 10% of the quality element of the price/quality ratio is allocated to measurable Social Value outcomes (see appendix). This a requirement on deals over £100,000 but should be included in all deals below this when relevant and appropriate. Where social value is opted out of evidence is required that the full potential of social value has been explored and there is clear evidence that social value cannot be included
- Aim to spend at least 25% of the Council's total procurement budget with micro, small and medium size businesses, social enterprises, and voluntary/community organisations and be ambitious in our endeavour to improve on this figure.
- Increased local SME/VCSE participation in tender/procurement process.
- Work with internal staff, the market, and communities to improve understanding of Social Value, community wealth and community benefit.

NELC policies and strategies which support this outcome include the Economic Strategy, the Local Plan and the Procurement Strategy.

**All people in North East Lincolnshire live in a safe environment, can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities.**

- Considering equality and diversity in everything we do, and offering staff, partners, communities, and residents the opportunity to have their say.
- Involving local people, community organisations and partners by beginning engagement and/or consultation at the earliest possible opportunity in a change or service redesign.
- Involve residents and partners in how we meet the needs of local communities – encouraging participative involvement in understanding needs and issues, and delivering user led or co-produced design of services and products.
- Support and facilitate community led change, asset-based community development and community asset transfers.
- Support activities which increase the number of volunteers, encouraging NELC employees to use their allocated volunteering hours in local VCSE organisations.
- Act as a social value champion across our place, setting an example and encouraging partners to develop their own social value approaches.
- Support activity which makes our borough inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
- Increase access and availability of arts and leisure activities for residents across the borough.

NELC policies and strategies which support this outcome include the Talking Listening and Working Together engagement strategy, the Insights Strategy, the ASB Case Review/Community Trigger Policy, Caught on Camera - Operational Policy, CCTV Strategy, Community Safety and Partnership Plan, the Domestic Abuse Safer Accommodation Strategy, the Domestic Abuse Strategy and Enforcement Policies.

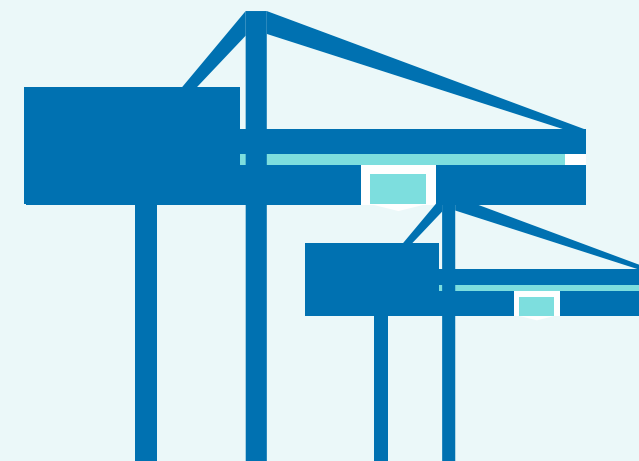
## How will we know this policy is working?

A Community Benefit and Social Value Advisory Group will oversee the development and implementation of Social Value in the Council.

We will produce annual reports on the progress and impact of social value across all key commissioning, procurement and other activity referenced in our social value ambitions. In this report we will highlight other projects that have provided wider community benefit. This will also be seen through the delivery of our council plan ambitions.

## Review

The Council will keep the delivery of its Social Value Policy under review and report progress to Cabinet on an annual basis. In doing so, it will take account of any changes in legislation pertaining to the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012, the Local Government Act 1999, EU Regulations, and any changes to Place priorities over the years. It will also allow changes that ensure that the expected benefits of the policy are being achieved.





North East Lincolnshire Council wants to make it easy for anyone to consider social value in their work and engagement with us. The framework below sets out our priorities against some of the commitments that we would like to see from contractors when developing their Social Value proposals, depending on the type of contract. However, we accept this needs to be flexible and allow for new and innovative ideas about how to deliver Social Value in line with our outcomes and priorities. These activities will be reported on to ensure that we can demonstrate and evidence the impact and contribution that our social value approach is having towards achieving North East Lincolnshire's Outcomes.

**NEL Outcome: All people in North East Lincolnshire reach their full potential through skills and learning**

<p><b>Ambition:</b> To use social value as a platform to provide equal access to high-quality education, employment and career progression through schemes such as apprenticeships, work placements, and encouragement of lifelong learning by:</p>	<p>Example Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Paying and promoting the Living Wage.</li> <li>- Providing sustainable employment opportunities.</li> <li>- Offering support for the unemployed and career mentoring services.</li> <li>- Inspiring young people through school and college visits.</li> <li>- Providing quality apprenticeships with clear gains.</li> <li>- Providing work experience and careers support.</li> <li>- Providing opportunities for disadvantaged groups – including young people, NEETs, rehabilitating young offenders, care leavers, those with mental or physical health conditions and learning difficulties and long-term unemployed.</li> <li>- Local advertising for all employment opportunities and apprenticeship vacancies.</li> <li>- Working with the existing local education and training system to deliver training and careers activities wherever possible.</li> </ul>
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**NEL Outcome: All people in North East Lincolnshire benefit from a green economy and high-quality environment**

<p><b>Ambition:</b> Enhance and protect the natural environment through sustainable industry, housing, transportation and energy solutions by:</p>	<p>Example Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing the amount of waste and single-use plastic and seeking opportunities to recycle wherever possible.</li> <li>- Supporting NELC's target to reduce carbon emissions by taking concrete steps to minimise energy consumption and consider the environmental performance of the wider supply chain.</li> <li>- Supporting initiatives to improve the local environment such as through local growing schemes and measures to address air pollution and fly-tipping.</li> </ul>
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**NEL Outcome: All people in North East Lincolnshire enjoy good health and wellbeing**

<p><b>Ambition:</b> Work with partners to tackle disadvantage and address inequalities of health, wealth, and opportunity by targeting activity towards those most in need, prioritising our most vulnerable by:</p>	<p>Example Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting initiatives to tackle obesity, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and other challenges that affect the independence and resilience of residents.</li> <li>- Commitment to workplace wellbeing and initiatives that improve staff wellbeing.</li> <li>- Contribution to initiatives to tackle homelessness.</li> <li>- Undertake wellbeing initiatives in the community to engage people in health interventions.</li> <li>- Support strong community networks for vulnerable people, including those with disabilities and older people.</li> </ul>
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**NEL Outcome: All people in North East Lincolnshire benefit from a strong local economy**

<p><b>Ambition:</b> Investing in local micro, small and medium sized enterprises and voluntary and community sector by facilitating increased VCSE impact in our area, promoting local investment, and regeneration by:</p>	<p>Example Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of expert advice or support to local VCSEs and SMEs.</li> <li>- Equipment or resources donated to local VCSEs.</li> <li>- Buying goods and services from organisations based in North East Lincolnshire wherever possible</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
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**NEL Outcome: All people in North East Lincolnshire live in a safe environment, can have their say about things that are important to them and participate fully in their communities**

<p><b>Ambition:</b> Helping our people feel valued and able to contribute to our society, by promoting diversity, encouraging volunteering, and involving the community in change by:</p>	<p>Example Commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Involving residents in the design of projects and services wherever relevant.</li> <li>- Building the capacity of local community groups and activities, such as through volunteering, mentoring, and providing space and facilities.</li> <li>- 'Buying social' where possible, by sub-contracting with organisations that share our values and have a social purpose, such as those from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors.</li> <li>- Embracing equality and diversity.</li> <li>- Demonstrating commitment to ethical procurement.</li> <li>- Contributing to initiatives to reduce crime.</li> </ul>
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This document is also available in plain text. Please contact the North East Lincolnshire Council communications and marketing team at: [communications@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:communications@nelincs.gov.uk)