

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

25 NOVEMBER 2021

Report Title	REVISED SOCIAL VALUE POLICY			
Purpose of Report	To approve the revised Social Value Policy.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to approve the revised Social Value Policy			
Consultation and Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Corporate Policy and Governance team, including Procurement. • The Strategic Leadership Team. • The Alliance Leadership Team. 			
Report Author	Hannah Barton, Policy & Projects Officer Tel: Email: hannah.barton@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	N/A			
Background Papers	None.			
Appendices	Appendix A – Social Value Policy Appendix B – National TOMs Framework			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	No	No

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Public Sector (Social Value) Act 2012 sets out public sector organisations' responsibilities to consider social value in higher value service contracts, or where there is a service element in goods or works contracts.
- 1.2** As a result of the Act, the focus within business processes, bids and tendering activity is no longer solely on financial measurements, and buyers need to consider the wider social impact that has been traditionally made through corporate social responsibility. The Act requires local authorities to consider economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public services contracts with a value that meets the threshold for requiring a full procurement to be carried out in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (currently £189,330).
- 1.3** Previously, Stroud District Council had a Social Value Policy which was an appendix to the Procurement Strategy. This was approved by the Strategy and Resources Committee in June 2019, and provided a brief overview of Social Value at the Council, and the Council's aims in relation to Social Value.

2. SOCIAL VALUE PORTAL

- 2.1** In August 2021, the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) agreed to approve the adoption and corporate implementation of the Social Value Portal (SVP) to enable the Council to measure and report on its Social Value activity and to highlight the benefits of this activity to the community. The Corporate Policy and Governance team, with support of officers from other service areas, are currently implementing the Portal and it is anticipated it will be up and running by mid to end of November.
- 2.2** The SVP is an online solution that allows organisations to measure and manage the contribution that their organisation and supply chain makes to the community, according to the principles laid out within the Social Value Act. It allows organisations to report both non-financial and financial data, and measures environmental, social and economic activities delivered through a project in terms that are meaningful to Stroud District residents and businesses.
- 2.3** The SVP uses the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) Framework that was developed in collaboration with the Local Government Association and offers a consistent measurement solution used by public, private and third sector organisations. See Appendix B.
- 2.4** It should be noted that following award of a contract, the Social Value Portal charge a fee to the successful bidder. This is to cover the assessment of bids and ongoing contract management of each project. This is the approach that has been adopted by other local authorities using the Social Value Portal, and we are not aware that any issues have been experienced as a result of this.

3. SOCIAL VALUE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 3.1** Using the Social Value Portal, the Council will be able to measure and report on Social Value delivered, broken down by project, service area, directorate or Council-wide.
- 3.2** The Social Value Portal will review data on a quarterly basis and report back to contract managers and the Corporate Policy and Governance team. End-of-project reports will also be provided that summarise Social Value delivered and progress against targets. Suppliers can also generate progress reports to share with contract managers, where required.
- 3.3** At the end of each year, the Social Value Portal will provide the Council with an Annual Social Value Report highlighting the total amount of social value the Council has delivered, and its successes. The report will be shared with members, officers and key stakeholders.

4. REVISED SOCIAL VALUE POLICY

- 4.1** A revised Social Value Policy has been written to include more information and to reflect the implementation of the Social Value Portal.
- 4.2** The updated Social Value Policy aligns with the Council's strategic objectives outlined in the Council Plan, in particular the priority regarding Economy, Recovery and Regeneration. It also supports the Council's vision for procurement: 'to demonstrate value for money through effective procurement of goods, services and works on a whole life

basis in terms of generating benefits to the community and the organisation, whilst minimising impacts to the environment.'

- 4.3** Please find the revised Social Value Policy attached at Appendix A. The policy includes sections on background, delivery of Social Value at the Council, and roles and responsibilities for the policy and its implementation.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of the Social Value Policy.

The Social Value Portal has been procured at a cost of £18,000 for a three year license, along with a £5k cost for an Annual Corporate Social Value Report. This can be met from Covid 19 recovery funds over the three year period.

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4.2 Legal Implications

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into force on 31 January 2013. It requires public bodies who commission services to consider how what is proposed to be procured might improve the wider social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. This duty only applies to the procurement of services above the threshold for compliance with the main provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations. This policy exceeds the statutory duty as it is mandatory for all contracts above £75,000 and encouraged for procurements below that level.

The duty is a pre-procurement duty, meaning that before starting the procurement process officers must think about whether what they are sourcing, or the way they are going to source them, could secure these benefits for their area.

The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 permit social aspects to be evaluated as part of the quality criteria. Any social value aspects must be relevant and proportionate to what is being procured.

A contract for services will need to be put in place with the SVP in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.