



# **Social Value Policy**

**Gravesham Borough Council**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Supporting our many and varied communities is at the heart of everything we do. Local authorities and public sector bodies around the UK, are facing significant financial challenges, brought into even sharper focus by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, that mean we have to find new and innovative ways of providing that support.
- 1.2 One way of doing that is by building social value into contracts we sign with contractors we are engaging to carry out work on our behalf.
- 1.3 Social value can take many forms. It can see contractors' staff volunteering in our communities or making their buildings available to host community events; it can be committing to take on local young people as apprentices, create jobs, or pledging to use local suppliers. Or it could be taking positive action to help us meet our target of becoming a net zero Borough by 2030.
- 1.4 However it is delivered, social value has to play a part in helping us engage with all of our residents – including those hard to reach demographics – and in supporting local businesses and our arts, culture and heritage sector.
- 1.5 Used correctly, it can help us build cohesive and resilient communities, a stronger local economy, and a cleaner, greener Borough.
- 1.6 Each partner has something different to offer us in terms of adding social value, and we work with them to ensure what is being asked of them is deliverable by them.
- 1.7 By including social value clauses in contracts awarded to our partners, we can help improve the lives of our local communities and contribute to the delivery of the overall aim of our Corporate Plan by delivering a Gravesham to be proud of.

# 2. Social Value Policy

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure social value is applied when considering contracts for services.
- 2.2 This policy statement forms a key part of the council's procurement framework and supports the current Procurement Strategy by documenting how the council will consider social value in its procurement. It also supports our Corporate Plan in delivering a Gravesham to be proud of under the heading of #progress.
- 2.3 Our Corporate Plan (2019-2023) has established a clear ambition for the borough; *Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of.*

In seeking to deliver against that ambition, we have established a suite of corporate objectives. Each objective has its own portfolio of activities and initiatives but, importantly, have been designed to work with and support the other objectives for the benefit of our local community.

**#1 People:** *a proud community; where residents can call a safe, clean and attractive borough their home.*

**#2 Place:** *a dynamic borough; defined by a vibrant and productive local economy taking advantage of growth in the area, supported by its strong and active community.*

**#3 Progress:** *an entrepreneurial authority; commercial in outlook and committed to continuous service improvement, underpinned by a skilled workforce and strong governance environment*

- 2.4 This policy will be reviewed and presented to the Commercial Services Cabinet Committee on an annual basis

### **3. Legislative Framework**

- 3.1 The term 'social value' refers to approaches, which maximise additional benefits that can be created by delivery through procurement or commissioning of goods and services, above and beyond those delivered.
- 3.2 When public bodies such as the council place contracts, the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 legally obliges us to consider how procurement and delivery of contracts might secure additional social value for their area. This legal obligation, however, applies only to high-value contracts that are predominantly for services, not to supplies or works.

### **4. Social Value Principles**

- 4.1 Our policy follows these key principles:-
- Improving local social, economic and environmental wellbeing when procuring contracts
  - To achieve more of our strategic aims at no extra cost
  - Complying with legislative requirements and council values
  - Being open and transparent in procurement by formally and consistently considering social value
  - Championing social value at the council
  - Build a shared understanding of social value within the council and its partner organisations.
  - Any spend arising from social value must be aligned to the council's corporate plan and objectives

### **5. Measurement and Monitoring of Social Value**

- 5.1 While all social value commitments the council makes should be delivered, monitoring and reporting on delivery is crucial in cases where social value commitments have influenced the allocation of public funds (e.g. when awarding a contract). Third parties (such as suppliers) should therefore be monitored and held to account for the delivery of social value commitments they have made to the council. This will be monitored via individual contract managers.
- 5.2 Our current performance reporting includes a performance indicator (PI) relating to social value. This PI is presented quarterly to the Commercial Services Cabinet Committee for review showing the monetary values secured through contracted social value together with a short narrative highlighting the non-financial aspects and how this has benefitted the community.