

# PS Connect

University of Exeter

## Social Value Policy



University  
of Exeter



ACCESSIBLE

RESPONSIVE

INNOVATIVE



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### Amendment History

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22.03.24	1.0	Initial Draft

## Introduction

The University of Exeter is a vibrant knowledge hub with global connections, a major regional employer and important contributor to the local economy. Alongside its partners and stakeholders, it plays an important role through the impact of education, research and knowledge exchange activities underpinning the economic, health, social and environmental fabric of our region.

Social Value measures the positive value and benefits we as an organisation can create through the procurement of goods, works and services for the economy, communities and society within Exeter, Cornwall and surrounding areas. The University of Exeter aims to build on the already established Sustainability practices through the adoption of Social Value.

This policy will provide a clear link between the Exeter, Devon, Cornwall and Torbay Civic Agreements and Strategy 2030 and its procurements; this enables Social Value to be placed in the context of how suppliers can help the university to deliver the outcomes.

The Social Value Policy and the Bought Goods and Services Policy feed into the Responsible Procurement Strategy.

## Background

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 was passed at the end of February 2012 and came into force on 31st January 2013. It introduced statutory requirements for public authorities to give regard to:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental well-being

The statutory duty only applies to public contracts for services (including framework agreements for services), goods and works which were fully regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) which from October 2024 will be superseded by the Procurement Act Regulations 2023.

The Act requires consideration of Social Value at the outset of the procurement process, through the development of the specification, as well as targeted questions within in the Invitation to Tender (ITT).

## Scope

This policy will apply to all staff employed by the University, across all campuses to ensure that everyone embeds Social Value considerations into procurement decisions consistently and uniformly, and to encourage supplier behaviour to help us achieve our social value goals.



## Goal

Our goal is to procure goods, works and services in a way that benefits the local economy, improve well-being in local communities, take consideration of environmental aspects and provide an opportunity for innovative ideas to all improve all areas of local economic, health, social and environmental benefits.

## Objectives

Our objectives are to:

- Comply with the requirements of the Social Value Act (2012), whilst making a meaningful contribution to social value benefits.
- Support the University's Strategy 2030 and Net Zero carbon goals.
- Raise awareness and promote best practice in responsible procurement throughout the University.
- Provide training and resources to enhance skills and knowledge on Social Value of all staff who are making purchasing decisions.
- Maximise opportunities from our spend with suppliers in a way that creates positive social, economic and environmental outcomes delivering measurable Social Value returns.
- Promote the importance of Social Value across to all staff and senior leaders.

## Key Responsibilities

All **staff** are required to:

- Consider Social Value in all aspects of procuring goods, works and services.
- Reflect on how Social Value benefits can be realised through work they do within UoE.
- Include social value benefits in your procurement of goods, services or works as a mandatory requirement for all procurements over £50,000.
- Include Social Value benefits in your procurement of goods, services or works under £50,000 as a discretionary requirement.

**Procurement professionals** are required to:

- Give due consideration to include Social Value benefits for all contracts in respect of goods, works and services.
- Apply the considerations to Social Value in a proportional and relevant way.
- Consider it at each stage in relation to planning, tendering and contract management.
- Do so in a manner that makes positive contributions linked to our strategic priorities.

**Suppliers and sub-contractors** are required to:

- Suppliers and sub-contractors will be contractually obligated to comply with this policy to the extent set out within their contract.
- Suppliers will be required to provide data and information on social value and all related benefits when requested, either informally or through the Social Value Portal (where applicable).



## Our Approach

Our approach is to:

- Work with the University's current suppliers to encourage them to report Social Value benefits they are currently providing to our local communities in accordance with the terms of university contracts. Include Social Value within all goods, works and services contracts over £50,000 as a mandatory requirement.
- Include Social Value within all goods, works and services contracts under £50,000 as a discretionary requirement.
- Include a 30% weighting for responsible procurement within tenders, which makes up as standard 15% Social Value and 15% Sustainability. There is discretion to give more weighting to one element, over the other, but no element may have a minimum weighting less than 10%.
- Require all suppliers where Social Value is within the tender to sign up to the Social Value Portal to enable us to monitor and report on Social Value benefits.
- Work closely with key stakeholders within the University, to ensure meaningful Social Value benefits are delivered by our suppliers that have a positive impact on the University and local communities.
- Take into consideration the close relationship between Social Value, EDI, Modern Slavery and Sustainability, to maximise benefits in all areas.
- Decide what social, economic and environmental themes within the Social Value Model are relevant to either the individual tender and/or to support local priorities, including those related to health outcomes and inequalities whilst ensuring full alignment to relevant procurement legislation and guidance.

## Governance

The Director of PS Connect is responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Strategic oversight of the delivery of this policy is provided by the Climate and Environmental Crisis (CEC) Board, which reports directly to University Council.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

## Measurement and Reporting

The National Social Value Measurement Framework – or National TOMs for short – is a method of reporting and measuring social value to a consistent standard. It provides the golden thread between an organisation's overarching strategy and vision, to the delivery of that vision. The Framework was developed by Social Value Portal (SVP) and launched in 2017. The Framework is reviewed and endorsed by the National Social Value Taskforce and endorsed by the Local Government Association.

Tender responses will include specific Social Value questions, which will form part of the terms of the final contract for the winning tenderer. Each Social Value question will be allocated a weighting dependent upon the Social Value benefits' priority to the university's hierarchy of need as determined by Strategy 2030 and the Devon & Cornwall Civic Agreements. This enables Social Value Benefits to contribute to the determination of each contract awarded by the University.



Tenderers will be asked to specify how they will deliver the Social Value benefits, the timeframe required to deliver these and to confirm actions to deliver the benefits will be reported and monitored. Reports may include commentary on, for instance, how tenderers intend to reduce carbon emissions.

The SVP will be used to upload and track suppliers' performance of the Social Value benefits, which they have committed to deliver through the tender process.

The inclusion of Social Value considerations in procurement activity and the realisation of these benefits will be reported internally via the PS Connect balanced scorecard monthly, as well as reports from SVP being reported to the Climate and Environmental Crisis Board as a minimum of annually or as required. The following metrics will be used to measure tangible benefits:

1. £ of Social Value benefits
2. % of delivered vs committed Social Value benefits per quarter.