

BACKGROUND

1. This Social Value Policy sets out the key principles and actions through which Valleys to Coast embeds practical and effective delivery of social value across all procurement, commissioning, grant-making, and related activities. This begins at the earliest (pre-procurement) stage, in line with the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

WHAT WE MEAN BY SOCIAL VALUE

2. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires organisations to consider how the services they procure can improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the communities they serve, and how procurement processes can help secure these improvements.

For Valleys to Coast, social value refers to the measurable and meaningful improvements we deliver for our communities. We will seek outcomes that:

- Are relevant and proportionate to the contract or investment value
- Can be clearly defined and contractually embedded
- Align with our organisational priorities and community needs

POLICY OBJECTIVES

3. Valleys to Coast is committed to improving the quality of life for residents, supporting local economic growth, and enhancing the places where people live and work. This policy enables us to maximise the wider impact of our spending by securing additional social, economic, and environmental benefits.

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Embed social value into all relevant procurement and commissioning activity
- Establish a consistent approach to measuring, reporting, and improving social value outcomes
- Implement transparent and effective systems for evaluating social value in tenders and managing delivery
- Support suppliers and partners to understand, deliver, and improve their social value contributions
- Build a strong evidence base to define and benchmark good practice over time

IMPLEMENTATION IN PROCUREMENT AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

4. Valleys to Coast will ensure that social value commitments are fairly and transparently assessed as part of procurement processes, and monitored throughout the life of contracts.
5. Suppliers will be required to report on their delivery of social value commitments at agreed intervals. This will allow both Valleys to Coast and suppliers to track progress, measure impact, and support continuous improvement.

6. Existing suppliers may also be encouraged to commit to and report on social value delivery during the lifetime of their contracts, enabling earlier realisation of benefits.

SPEND THRESHOLD

7. To ensure proportionality and efficiency, a financial threshold will be applied to determine when full social value requirements apply. This threshold will be aligned with relevant public procurement regulations and assessed at the start of each procurement process.

8. Contracts below the threshold will not be required to formally comply with this policy, although suppliers may voluntarily contribute social value.
9. Contracts above the threshold will be expected to fully comply with this policy unless an approved exception is granted.

TENDER EVALUATION WEIGHTINGS

10. Social value will form a defined and weighted component of tender evaluations for relevant procurements. This weighting will reflect the importance of economic, social, and environmental outcomes alongside cost and quality.

11. Where possible, existing evaluation weightings will be adjusted proportionately to incorporate social value without distorting overall scoring balance.

EVALUATION

12. Valleys to Coast will assess the social value commitments proposed by bidders as part of the overall evaluation process. This will sit alongside price and quality assessments.

13. A standard minimum weighting for social value will be applied to applicable procurements, with flexibility to adjust where justified and approved.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

14. Delivery of social value commitments will be actively monitored by responsible officers, with regular reporting to ensure progress and accountability.

15. Social value commitments will be treated as contractual obligations. Where delivery issues arise, alternative agreed outcomes may be implemented where appropriate.

GOVERNANCE

16. This policy will be overseen by the relevant senior leadership team, supported by designated social value leads and operational staff.

17. Valleys to Coast will regularly review and update this policy to reflect changes in legislation, organisational priorities, and best practice.
18. An annual Social Value Statement will be produced to communicate progress, outcomes, and future priorities to stakeholders, including residents, partners, and suppliers.