

Overview & Scrutiny (E, C & P) – 1st October 2026

Report by: Mark Parker – Procurement Manager

Lead Cllr: Stephen Claffey
Executive Councillor for Climate, Transformation and Workforce



Wards	Open / Exempt	Key Decision?
ALL	Open	No

Procurement Outcomes - the Social Value Policy

Executive Summary: This report presents the proposed Procurement Outcomes - Social Value Policy for consideration and comment by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel prior to its submission to Cabinet for approval. The Policy establishes a consistent, outcomes-led approach to securing additional economic, social and environmental benefit through the Council's procurement and commissioning activity. It aligns Social Value activity with the Corporate Plan and the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy and sets out six locally relevant outcomes, proportionate requirements for different procurement activities and arrangements for monitoring and reporting delivery.

Recommendations

- 1.1. consider and comment on the proposed Procurement Outcomes - Social Value Policy attached at Appendix 1.

Key Corporate Plan Priorities

- 1 Improving quality of life for local people.
- 2 Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations
- 3 Doing Our Core Work Well

Place Strategy Priorities

- 1 Inclusive Economy

Report Author(s)

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Panel to review and comment on the proposed Procurement Outcomes - Social Value Policy prior to its submission to Cabinet for approval. The report outlines the rationale for replacing the existing framework and how the proposed Policy will provide an updated, outcomes-led approach to securing social, economic and environmental benefits through relevant Council activity.

2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

- 2.1** The Council's existing Social Value Policy and Framework was approved in 2019 and was developed to support the objectives contained within the 2018-2022 Corporate Plan. The framework sought to secure additional social, economic and environmental benefits through procurement activity, with a particular focus on employment, skills, community resilience, environmental sustainability and business growth. It also established a limited framework for evaluating and measuring social value commitments through contracts.

Since the existing framework was adopted, the Council's strategic priorities have evolved significantly. The current Corporate Plan 2023-2028 places greater emphasis on improving quality of life, preventing residents from falling into crisis, supporting an inclusive economy, creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations and delivering high-quality services. These priorities are further complemented by the Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy, which promotes ambitions around an inclusive economy, health and wellbeing, pride in place, environmental innovation and transformed travel.

- 2.2** The procurement landscape has also changed significantly. The Procurement Act 2023 places increased emphasis on delivering public benefit through procurement and requires contracting authorities to have regard to maximising public benefit when undertaking procurement activity. National procurement guidance has similarly evolved to encourage public bodies to secure wider economic, social and environmental outcomes and to demonstrate how those outcomes contribute to strategic objectives and community needs.

The Council therefore has an opportunity to move beyond a compliance-based approach to social value and adopt a more strategic and outcomes-focused framework that reflects both local priorities and emerging best practice.

- 2.3** The proposed Procurement Outcomes - Social Value Policy has been developed to provide a clear and consistent approach to securing social value across procurement, commissioning, grant funding, partnerships and wider Council activity. Rather than focusing solely on procurement processes, the Policy establishes a set of locally relevant outcomes that support delivery of the Corporate Plan and Huntingdonshire Futures ambitions. These outcomes are intended to provide a clear "golden thread" between the Council's strategic priorities and the benefits delivered through its spending and influence.

The Policy replaces the existing 2019 framework with a modernised approach that places greater emphasis on measurable outcomes, local impact, supplier engagement, monitoring and continuous improvement. It is intended to provide sufficient flexibility to be applied proportionately across a wide range of Council activities whilst maintaining a consistent strategic focus on delivering additional value for residents, communities, businesses and the environment.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED & NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1** Retaining the existing Social Value Policy and Framework was considered but is not recommended. The current framework was developed in 2019 to support the Council's 2018-2022 Corporate Plan and reflects the legislative and policy context of that time, including a more limited focus on social value considerations within procurement activity. Since then, the Council's priorities have evolved through the Corporate Plan 2023-2028, with greater emphasis on quality of life, prevention, inclusive economic growth, environmental sustainability and community wellbeing. The Procurement Act 2023 and updated Government guidance place increased emphasis on securing wider public benefit, delivering measurable outcomes and aligning procurement activity with strategic objectives. The proposed policy provides a modern, outcomes-led framework that aligns with current legislation, national best practice and local priorities, ensuring that procurement, commissioning, grants and partnerships maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits delivered for Huntingdonshire.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

- 4.1** Overview and Scrutiny comments will be included within the Cabinet report.

5. POST-DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1** Subject to Cabinet approval, the Policy will be implemented through updated procurement guidance, templates, supplier communications and officer training. Social Value outcomes will be monitored and reported through the Social Value Engine and existing governance arrangements.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

6.1 Council Key Priorities and Performance

- Improving quality of life for local people
- Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations
- Doing our core work well

The proposed Policy supports all three priorities within the Corporate Plan by establishing a consistent approach to securing additional economic, social and environmental benefits through the Council's procurement and commissioning activity.

It supports Improving quality of life for local people by encouraging procurement outcomes that contribute to employment and skills opportunities, improved health and wellbeing, reduced social isolation, stronger community organisations and increased community resilience.

It supports Creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations by encouraging sustainable supply chains, carbon reduction, biodiversity, waste reduction, climate adaptation and investment in accessible and thriving places. It also seeks to improve

access to procurement opportunities for SMEs, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations and other local suppliers, where lawful and proportionate.

It supports Doing our core work well by aligning procurement decisions with the Council's strategic priorities and the statutory objectives of delivering value for money and maximising public benefit. The Policy establishes clearer responsibilities for planning, evaluating, recording and monitoring Social Value commitments.

Delivery will be monitored through proportionate contract-management arrangements and the Social Value Engine, with outcomes reported annually through procurement governance and performance reporting. This will provide greater assurance that commitments made through procurement activity are translated into demonstrable benefits for residents, communities, businesses and the environment.

6.2 Financial Implications

6.2.1 N/A

6.3 Legal & Constitutional Implications

6.3.1 The Policy supports the Council's compliance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, the Procurement Act 2023 and the National Procurement Policy Statement by establishing a consistent approach to considering and delivering wider public benefit through procurement activity. The Policy does not, in itself, require any amendment to the Council's Constitution.

6.4 Community Impact

6.4.1 The Policy is intended to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits generated through the Council's procurement, commissioning and partnership activity. It will support outcomes relating to employment and skills, community resilience, health and wellbeing, inclusive growth and thriving local places, whilst encouraging greater participation from SMEs and VCSE organisations where lawful and proportionate

6.5 Environment & Climate Change Implications

6.5.1 The Policy includes climate, nature and environmental resilience as one of its six Social Value outcomes. It will encourage consideration of proportionate environmental benefits through relevant procurement activity, including carbon reduction, sustainable supply chains, waste reduction, biodiversity and climate resilience, where these are relevant to the subject matter of the contract.

6.6 Equality & Diversity Implications

6.6.1 The Policy supports inclusive access to procurement opportunities and may contribute to wider equality, inclusion and community wellbeing outcomes through relevant procurement and commissioning activity. No adverse equality impacts have been identified.

6.7 Implications on Resources

6.7.1 N/A

6.8 Health & Wellbeing Implications

6.8.1 Health wellbeing and prevention is one of the six outcomes contained within the proposed Policy. Relevant procurement and commissioning activity may therefore seek proportionate commitments that improve physical or mental wellbeing, reduce loneliness and social isolation, support prevention and strengthen community resilience.

The Policy also supports wider health outcomes through its focus on employment and skills, accessible places, stronger communities, environmental resilience and support for residents who may otherwise be at risk of entering crisis.

The inclusion of health and wellbeing outcomes will be determined according to the nature and potential impact of each procurement or commissioning activity. Commitments will be required to be relevant, proportionate, additional to the core contractual requirement and capable of being monitored.

6.9 Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Implications

6.9.1 N/A

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The proposed Policy is intended to reduce the risk that Social Value is considered inconsistently, too late in the procurement process or without a clear connection to the Council's strategic priorities and local needs.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

8.1

Document List	Custodian	File Location
Social Value Policy and Framework 2019	Procurement Team	Appendix 1 - Social Value Policy and Framework 2019.pdf
Corporate Plan 2023–2028	Business Intelligence and Performance / Corporate Policy	Corporate Plan Refresh 2026 27 - Appendix A - Corporate Plan.pdf
Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy	Relevant corporate strategy owner	Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk
HDC Climate Strategy	Climate Team	Climate Strategy - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy	Communities Team	Huntingdonshire Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012	The National Archives	Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

Procurement Act 2023, Section 12	The National Archives	Procurement Act 2023
National Procurement Policy Statement	Cabinet Office	National Procurement Policy Statement - GOV.UK

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

- **Appendix 1 – Procurement Outcomes – The Social Value Policy**