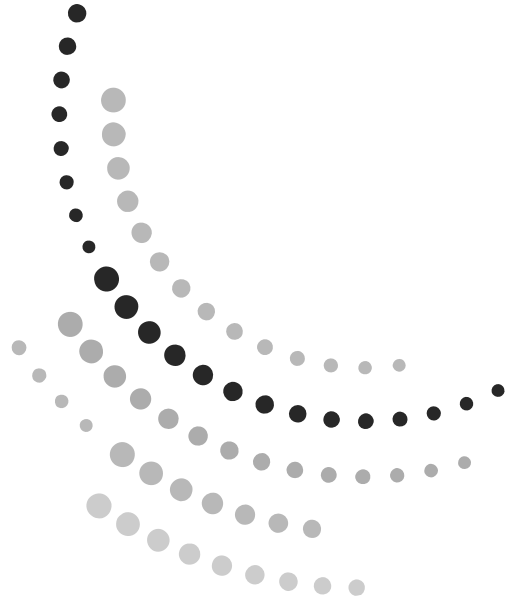




Rutland
County Council



Social Value Framework

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Guardian	
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Summary of document

This document sets out how Rutland County Council (RCC) will facilitate delivery of Social Value through its commissioning and procurement activities.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Local authorities are required to consider how economic, social, and environmental wellbeing may be improved by services that are to be procured, and how procurement may secure those improvements under the provisions of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.
- 1.2 This Framework sets out how Rutland County Council (RCC) will facilitate delivery of social value through its commissioning and procurement activities. Aligned with the County's Future Rutland Vision, RCC's Corporate Strategy 2022 – 2027, and other key strategies held by the Council and its partners, it will set the Council's priorities in relation to Social Value.
- 1.3 For many years Rutland County Council has included Social Value for procurement over the relevant UK thresholds (as defined by the legislation). This Framework will enable a more consistent and robust approach to commissioning, procurement, and measurement of Social Value.

2. WHAT IS 'SOCIAL VALUE'

- 2.1 There is no single definition of Social Value, another term used is 'Community Benefit'. It refers to approaches which maximise the additional benefits that can be created through the delivery, and procurement or commissioning of goods and services, above and beyond those directly related to those goods and services themselves. This covers:
 - Health and wellbeing
 - The wider economy
 - The environment
 - Community cohesion and empowerment

- 2.2 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 states that:

*"If a relevant authority proposes to procure or make arrangements for procuring the provision of services, or the provision of services together with the purchase or hire of goods or the carrying out of works...the authority must consider how what is proposed to be procured might improve the **economic, social and environmental well-being** of the relevant area and, in conducting the process of procurement, **how it might act with a view to securing that improvement.**"*

3. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- 3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into force on 31st January 2013. It provides a legal obligation for local authorities and other public bodies to consider the social good that could come from the procurement of services before they embark upon it. The aim of the Act is not to alter commissioning

and procurement processes, but to ensure that as part of these processes, Councils give consideration to the wider impact of the service delivery.

- 3.2 It allows Councils to choose a supplier under a tendering process who not only provides the most advantageous service, but one which goes beyond the basic contract terms and secures wider benefits for the community.
- 3.3 The wording of the Act states that the authority must consider:
- How the proposed procurement might improve the economic, social and environment well-being of the relevant area;
 - How the process of procurement could help bring about that improvement;
 - Whether to consult relevant stakeholders on how social value could be created through the procurement.
- 3.4 The Act specifies that the authority must consider Social Value that is relevant to the good or services that need to be procured. It must also be proportionate to the size and nature of the contract.
- 3.5 Social Value helps us to use the money that we have more strategically, to produce a wider benefit than would otherwise have been achieved. It strengthens community cohesion by building relationships between contracted providers/suppliers, the Voluntary and Community Sector, local businesses, and education settings.

4. SOCIAL VALUE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Rutland's Social Value Framework sets out our approach and intention in relation to Social Value. Our Social Value outcomes are aligned to the priority areas of the Council's Corporate Plan 2024 – 2026. Appendix A aligns Social Value to the corporate strategy's outcomes.:

Our Mission

"Improve lives by focusing quality services and expertise where they are needed most, helping the County to grow and thrive whilst remaining the special place our residents know and love".

Tackling the Climate Emergency

Policies will support the County to tackle the climate crisis, helping to reduce carbon emissions and minimise the impact of climate change on the lives of residents and local businesses.

A diverse and sustainable local economy

Building a strong rural economy with a productive, sustainable, and diverse business base that provides opportunity for all.

Support the most vulnerable

Working collaboratively to improve outcomes for residents, helping those that need additional support to live their best lives.

Provide good public services

Delivering modern and cost-effective services which are easy to access and provide good levels of customer care.

5. MAKING SOCIAL VALUE HAPPEN

5.1 To achieve our Social Value outcomes we will:

- a) Have a lead officer to champion Social Value across the council, and support delivery within each business area.
- b) Have commissioning and procurement processes which enable:
 - Budget holders to identify Social Value that could be delivered through their commissioning.
 - Providers/suppliers to make a meaningful Social Value offer as part of the tender process and contract delivery.
 - Consistent evaluation of tender submissions to identify the best Social Value offer.
 - Measurement of Social Value to support contract management and delivery.
- c) Have a Social Value Progress Group consisting of staff from across the Council with responsibility for and relationships with the sectors/communities that are involved with and benefit from Social Value. The group will meet quarterly to monitor the development and progress of Social Value. It will capture lessons learnt and ensure these are applied to existing Social Value activity and future commissioning.

- d) Promote equity and fairness – target Social Value towards those in the greatest need or facing the greatest disadvantage and deprivation.
- e) Share good practice and communicate how we are delivering Social Value to our partners and communities.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 **The Commissioning Team** has strategic responsibility for Social Value to champion and facilitate Social Value across the council. It will:

- Support Directors, Heads of Service and Service Managers to understand and commission Social Value.
- Train Budget Holders and (where applicable) their team members.
- Lead the Social Value Progress group.
- Work with the Voluntary and Community Sector, Rutland's communities, education settings and local businesses to:
 - Understand where Social Value will make the most impact.
 - Promote engagement and partnership working with commissioned providers/suppliers including use of local supply chains and visits/volunteering in education settings.
 - Support ongoing development of Social Value in Rutland.
- Stay up to date with and support best practice in Rutland.
- Review the Social Value outcomes framework and process to ensure continuous improvement.

6.2 **Budget Holders will:**

- Engage with, understand, and follow the Council's approach to Social Value.
- Work with the Commissioning Team to embed Social Value across commissioning and procurement.
- Contract manage delivery of commissioned Social Value Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) alongside the contract's specification KPIs.
- Support the Commissioning Team to deliver continuous improvement in the development and delivery of Social Value in Rutland.

6.3 **We will ask providers/suppliers to:**

- Invest time in understanding Rutland, its uniqueness, its challenges, and the opportunities it brings.
- Understand that delivering Social Value is about partnership and not 'top-down' delivery. It is about working *with* people, communities, and organisations to make life better.
- Understand that a contract is not delivered in a vacuum. Rutland is a county made up of real people living their lives in different communities, homes, schools, and businesses.

- Engage and understand with the County's priorities as demonstrated in the Future Rutland Vision, Corporate Strategy and Rutland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy: The Rutland Place based Plan.
- Develop and deliver an engaging, creative Social Value offer that will have a positive impact for people in Rutland across the life of the contract.
- Work in partnership with the Council, the Voluntary Community Sector, local businesses, and education settings to strengthen and improve delivery of Social Value.

6.4 Appendix 2 outlines the Council's internal Social Value commissioning and procurement process. Appendix 3 and 4 outlines the commissioning and procurement process for providers to follow.

7. MEASURING THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL VALUE

7.1 We will measure the impact of Social Value to ascertain the extent to which it delivers improved outcomes for our communities.

7.2 The Council has adopted the Local Government Association's National Themes, Outcomes, and Measures (TOMs) Framework. This framework provides a minimum reporting standard for measuring Social Value. It:

- provides a consistent approach to measuring and reporting Social Value.
- allows for continuous improvement;
- provides a robust, transparent, and defensible solution for assessing and awarding tenders;
- allows organisations to compare their own performance by sector and industry benchmarks and understand what good looks like;
- reduces the uncertainty surrounding Social Value measurement for providers/suppliers, allowing them to make informed decisions based on robust quantitative assessments and hence embed Social Value into their corporate strategies.

7.3 We will monitor providers through contract management mechanisms. This includes using the Social Value Engine Tool to ensure targets and actions offered in tender documents are achieved and continue over the lifetime of the contract.

8. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

8.1 We will use the monitoring and outcome information to identify how we shape our approach to Social Value in the future. We will share (with permission) good practice examples between providers, and will promote successes to support continual development and encourage growth in Social Value across the local supply chain.

8.2 We welcome feedback from Council staff, partners and residents suggesting Rutland County Council can consider Social Value within its own business and through its contracted services, and will use this to develop and improve our approach.

A large print version of this document is available on request.



Rutland County Council
Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

01572 722 577
enquiries@rutland.gov.uk
www.rutland.gov.uk