

## SOCIAL VALUE REPORTING

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



**For Information**

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the approach and progress made to measure and capture social value within procurement at Cleveland Fire Authority. This is in line with the commitment made within the 2022-2026 Resource Plan and the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members note the report.

#### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since the Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force in 2012, commissioners of public services have been obliged to think about how they can secure wider social benefits from their contracts.
- 3.2 However, a poor understanding of what social value outcomes are and how they can be measured has limited the impact of the act, therefore the integration of social value into all public procurement activity is inconsistent and has happened more successfully in local government in recent years.
- 3.3 The consequence of this is that social value can often be a tick box exercise within a lot of public sector tender exercises, especially when procurement and commercial teams are under pressure to secure the solutions, they need on time and within budget, concerns around social value can easily fall down the order of importance.
- 3.4 The success of social value within local government is largely attributed to a social value framework called the 'National TOMs Framework'. This framework tracks the social value suppliers have promised to deliver as part of a contract, making it easier for local government to assess and report on the benefits that are created.

- 3.5 The National TOMS (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) framework has been in place for some time; however, it was simplified and relaunched by the national social value task force during the summer of 2022.
- 3.6 The relaunched model is now simpler and more standardised. It also levels the playing field, promoting clear-cut competition which gives complete confidence in consistently evaluated contracts. This allows the easy identification of which bidder offers the most value to local communities during the life of a contract.
- 3.7 The TOMs are split into 5 key Social Value Themes:
- Jobs: Promoting Local Skills and Employment
  - Growth: Supporting Growth of Responsible Regional Business
  - Social: Healthier, Safer, and more Resilient Communities
  - Environment: Decarbonising and Safeguarding our World
  - Innovation: Promoting Social Innovation

#### **4 PROCUREMENT AND SOCIAL VALUE WITHIN THE BRIGADE**

- 4.1 In line with the commitment made within our 2022-2026 resource plan (*ESR72*) the national TOMS model was adopted and built into brigade sourcing templates and evaluation criteria in January 2023 following approval from the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).
- 4.2 This has ensured that our social value management and reporting is straightforward, consistent, and most importantly evaluated for quality and not quantity, however this could be improved further by exploring the option of paying annually for TOMS portal access which would provide more tailored reporting and social value benefits.
- 4.3 To ensure further consistency and incorporate opportunities for creating social value into all relevant contracts it would also be helpful to have a defined 'Social value weightings' template that can be used as guidance when undertaking any sourcing activity.
- 4.4 PPN (Procurement Policy Note) 06/20 requires central government departments to evaluate social value, applying a minimum overall weighting of 10%. For other public bodies this can vary significantly with figures ranging from 5% through to 20%.

- 4.5 The below table highlights categories of spend and associated social value weightings that could be used for all brigade sourcing activity. In using the below table as guidance, the approach would ensure that the overall weighting allocated to social value would be proportionate considering the nature, complexity, and cost of the contract.

Category of spend	Example sourcing activity	Minimum Social Value Weighting (Lower Value)	Minimum Social Value Weighting (Medium Value)	Minimum Social Value Weighting (Higher Value)
		£7.5k - £30k (Goods, Services) £7.5k - £50k (Works)	£30k - £200k (Goods, Services) £7.5k - £4.5m (Works)	££200k plus (Goods, Services) £4.5m plus (Works)
Construction & FM	Building works, legislative maintenance, catering, cleaning	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%
Fleet	Vehicles, maintenance, spare parts, telematics	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%
ICT	Software, hardware, equipment, licensing	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%

Professional Services	Recruitment, Occupational health, Consultancy	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%
Clothing	Green and grey book uniform, PPE	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%
Operational Equipment	Rescue tools, Body worn video, BA sets	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%
Training	Hazmat, Incident command,	10% (Only if social value is relevant to the contract and proportional to its value)	10%	15%

- 4.6 At its meeting on 25 February 2025, the Executive Leadership Team approved the above table as guidance when planning scoping all Brigade sourcing activity. It also agreed that the most effective way to capture and report Social Value performance is by using the Social Value TOMS platform and approved obtaining annual costing for portal access and reporting functionality.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 A consistent approach demonstrates the importance placed on Social Value through the evaluation weightings applied.
- 5.2 This also ensures that social value is forefront at the very start of a new procurement project, starting with planning, preparation, and market engagement.

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