



SOCIAL VALUE POLICY 2026-2027

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1. Introduction

Wirral Met College has been providing high quality education and training since 1855. Students are at the heart of everything that we do in promoting education and training opportunities to meet the aspirations of students and the needs of the local community and industry.

The College offers students a range of academic and technical study programs designed to prepare them for careers and higher levels of education. Our diverse suite of academic and vocational courses, ranging from technical qualifications, apprenticeships, and higher education, are delivered in industry standard facilities by highly skilled staff who are both qualified teachers and technical specialists.

We also serve our community through our adult skills courses, working with students with learning difficulties and disabilities and by supporting our business community to develop pathways and prosper. We care deeply about the environment and are working hard to develop our environmental sustainability plans.

Public and or Grant funding money should be spent with demonstrable probity and in accordance with the college's policies. The College has a statutory duty to achieve best value, in part through economy and efficiency and is bound by the Equality Act 2010 as it applies to public sector organisations.

2. Scope and Purpose

Social Value is used to describe the added value of initiatives that deliver wider benefits to both the local community and wider society.

The College listens to and works collaboratively with people, communities, organisations, and industries in its local area; that behaves responsibly, working to align its interests with those of society and the environment, locally and nationally and that anticipates, plans for, and co-creates new possibilities and futures for the Wirral and Liverpool City Region for communities. These aims inform our work as an employer, as educators and students.

3. Policy Statement

The College recognises its obligations under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 as well as its moral and ethical obligations as an Further Education Institution and the College is committed to encouraging environmental sustainability, education, training, work placements, apprenticeship opportunities, inclusion and employment, through our contracts, which will contribute to the social, environmental and economic, well-being of the Wirral and Liverpool City Region.

This policy can be read by suppliers seeking to understand how Wirral Met College will demonstrate its commitment to delivering social value outcomes through its contracts and by its staff seeking to understand how to take account of social value through their tender processes.

4. Commitment to Social Value

Social value is about making the best use of the money that we have to get the best possible outcomes including improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area. Wirral Met College is committed to looking for ways to do this through our tendering processes for our staff, students, businesses and visitors.

We recognise that demands placed on our suppliers must be proportionate and must not impose such a burden that the successful delivery of the contract, on time and within budget is placed at risk.

The Social Value Act applies to contracts for services, or a combination of goods and services. However, we will apply the social value principles, and indeed all of the principles under each of the key themes in this policy, to purchases of goods, services and works in a way that is relevant and appropriate to each contract that we award:

- Economic:
 - Making savings
 - Boosting the local economy
 - Encouraging innovation
 - Training and apprenticeships
- Social:
 - Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
 - Healthier, safer, and more resilient local communities
- Environmental (source locally where possible):
 - Reducing carbon emissions
 - Encouraging biodiversity
 - Sustainability

Thinking about social value in these terms can help suppliers understand what we might be looking for in the delivery of our contracts and College staff to understand how to take account of social value when tendering.

5. How will the College ensure Social Value is delivered

The College will embed Social Value into all aspects of the business. Key themes include:

- Working collaboratively with key stakeholders to enable our community to gain the support, skills, and resilience they need to improve the quality of their lives and ultimately, to make a more active contribution to society.
- Promoting the College's curriculum offers in order to continually improve the rates of progression into higher level study, including higher education and into high quality, sustainable employment.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The College operates a devolved budget management structure. Responsibility for identifying and delivering social value therefore sits with budget holders, who are best placed to align social value outcomes to the purpose of the expenditure. This is supported

by oversight by the Finance team to ensure compliance.

Budget holders are responsible for:

- Ensuring social value is considered at the planning and pre-procurement stage of all relevant purchases and contracts
- Identifying proportionate and relevant social value outcomes for their area of spend
- Ensuring appropriate social value weighting is applied in line with this policy
- Using the College's Social Value Checklist to ensure compliance with this policy for relevant procurements
- Completed checklists should be retained with the procurement documentation and may be subject to review
- Working with suppliers to agree deliverable and measurable commitments
- Monitoring delivery of agreed social value outcomes as part of ongoing contract management
- Escalating any significant risks or non-delivery through normal management routes

The Finance team will:

- Undertake periodic review and sample checking of procurements to ensure social value considerations have been appropriately applied

7. Social Value in the Tender Process

It is important for the College to consider social value at all of the stages of the commissioning or procurement cycle; whilst planning our activities, carrying them out and reviewing them once completed.

The requirements for considering Social Value within commissioning and procurement activity are as follows.

Below the respective public procurement thresholds for Goods, Works & Services - Discretionary requirement to consider and apply (as appropriate) Social Value as part of the evaluation weightings.

Above the respective public procurement thresholds for Goods, Works & Services - Mandatory requirement (minimum 10%) to consider and apply Social Value as part of the evaluation weightings.

Where Social Value evaluation weightings are to be applied, they shall be between 5% and up to a maximum 25% of the total evaluation weighting.

Wirral Met College will:

- Identify opportunities for enhancing social value at the pre-procurement stage of the process through:
 - The assessment of needs and resources
 - Stakeholder consultation
 - Market engagement
- Embed social value procurement strategies

- Include social value considerations in the tender process through:
 - Specifications
 - Tender questions
 - Contract and performance management
- At pre-procurement stage, activities that we will complete prior to tendering include:
 - If the contract being tendered is to replace an existing contract, we will consider whether any social value is already being delivered and whether and how this could be better in any new contract.
 - Considering whether the contract will be able to help us meet the goals of our procurement arrangements and any other relevant organisational policies.
 - Consulting with partner organisations, service users and suppliers on the way in which social value can be included as part of the tender and resultant contract.
 - Consult with partner organisations on opportunities to collaborate.
 - Consult with service users on their needs and the outcomes that they would like to see from the contract.
 - If the contract is to replace an existing contract, we will consider whether new social needs have emerged during the term of the current contract that we can address as a result of the replacement contract.
- Specifications:
 - Consider the degree of importance that social value is to the contract and therefore the relative degree of importance that should be given to social value in the specification.
 - Include economic, social, and environmental requirements in the specifications in a way that is measurable.
- Tender Documentation:
 - Including economic, social, and environmental evaluation criteria where relevant.
 - Consideration given to the relative importance of the social value evaluation criteria and assigning the appropriate weighting (mandatory 10% for over financial threshold, where the weighting exceeds 10% we will explain the reasons in tender documents).
 - Making sure that the social value that we are looking to achieve can be delivered by any applicant to a tender process.
 - Including economic, social and environmental terms and conditions in our contracts, where appropriate.
- The Tender stage:
 - To make sure that we maximise the chances of social enterprises, charities and small to medium business enterprises (SME's) winning our contracts, where appropriate, we will:
 - make sure that the language used in our tender documents is accessible
 - ensure that the tendering requirements are not disproportionately onerous
 - include evaluation criteria that do not favour only the large suppliers

- identify ways of building these suppliers' capacity to bid, including hosting supplier events during the tendering process, attending local 'meet the buyer' events and answering clarification questions promptly and thoroughly
- tender opportunities will be advertised through appropriate procurement portals, including the Find a Tender Service (FTS), where required.

- Contract Management:

To make sure that our suppliers comply with their requirements and deliver social value we will:

- Hold review meetings with suppliers to make sure that the contract is being delivered to the specification.
- Work with our suppliers to find ways of enhancing our contracts throughout their lifetime.

Monitor our suppliers' delivery of social value outcomes in the course of their service delivery.

To meet our other obligations in relation to contract management we will:

- publish details of our awarded contracts along with the contractor's details on our electronic tendering system
- pay our suppliers within 30 days of receipt of an undisputed invoice.

8. Supply Chain Initiatives

Bidders are encouraged to detail their intended percentage spend within its proposed supply chain, which will be delivered by these sectors of the market and provide supporting evidence of how this will be achieved. Bidders who are themselves micro, small to medium businesses, social enterprises and voluntary and community organisations should describe the supply chain they are currently working with.

The College expects all suppliers to comply with their obligations under the Modern Slavery Act including the requirement for larger organisations to publish a Modern Slavery Statement that describes their efforts to reduce forced labour throughout their supply chain.

9. Opportunities to support the regeneration of the local community

The College will continue to seek opportunities to support the regeneration of the local community. Opportunities include:

- Including employers and other key stakeholders in decision making processes.
- Work with other local education providers to ensure that there is a breadth of opportunities available.
- Carry out volunteering activities that deliver benefits to the local community.
- Support people to live healthier lives.
- Promote sustainability, including:
 - Using resources efficiently, to reduce waste and maximise value.
 - Promoting sustainable and ethical procurement.

- Reducing pollution, noise, vibration, and nuisance within local communities.

10. Impact Assessments

- a. This policy/procedure has been assessed for its impact on equal opportunities and will be informed with the aim of eliminating all forms of discrimination in all strands of the equal opportunities' legislation.
- b. This policy/procedure has been assessed for potential risk on data subjects due to the processing of personally identifiable information. All processing has been reviewed and is in line with all current Data protection laws and appropriate safeguards implemented to ensure that the policy has privacy by design as its underlying approach.

11. Location and Access to the Policy

SharePoint.

12. Persons Responsible for the Policy

This policy will be monitored and reviewed to ensure it is consistently and fairly applied and approved by the Director of Finance.

Appendix A: Social Value Checklist for Budget Holders

1. Before starting the procurement

- Have I considered whether this contract can deliver social value? Y/N
- Are there 2-3 relevant social value outcomes linked to this spend? Y/N

2. Setting up the tender

- Have I included clear and proportionate social value requirements? Y/N
- Are the requirements:
 - relevant Y/N
 - achievable Y/N
 - not overly burdensome Y/N
- Have I applied a social value weighting where appropriate (above threshold: minimum 10%; below threshold: considered if relevant)? Y/N

3. During evaluation

- Are social value responses being evaluated consistently and fairly? Y/N
- Are commitments specific and measurable? Y/N

4. At contract award

- Have I agreed clear social value commitments with the supplier? Y/N
- Are these recorded as part of the contract or award documentation? Y/N

5. During contract management

- Am I reviewing delivery of social value as part of regular meetings? Y/N
- Are outcomes being tracked and evidenced? Y/N

6. Have any issues been followed up or escalated? Y/N

7. Final check

- Can I clearly demonstrate what was agreed, what has been delivered, and how it has been monitored? Y/N

Name	
Job Title	
Date	