

Cabinet

Report Title	Social Value Statement
Date of Meeting	30 April 2024
Report Author	Assistant Director Commissioning and Procurement
Director	Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)
Lead Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Finance
Why is this a key decision?	<p>1. An executive decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates. NO</p> <p>2. or is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Council. For these purposes, savings and expenditure are "significant" if they are equal to or greater than £500,000. NO</p> <p>For clarification, no treasury management decision shall constitute a Key Decision.</p>
Wards Affected	All
Identify exempt information and exemption category	None
Reasons for urgency (only where applicable)	n/a
Appendices (if any)	Appendix 1: Social Value Statement Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends Cabinet approves the Social Value Statement.
- 1.2 This statement sets out more detail about why Social Value is important to the Council and the steps we are taking to seek this added value in the commissioning and procurement of goods, works, services and utilities for residents in Westmorland & Furness. Social Value in its wider context and clarity of our offer across the Council will be considered in further documents / strategy.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Cabinet is recommended to:

2.1 Agree the Social Value Statement.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

3.1 The Social Value Statement, in relation to commissioning and procurement, will support the delivery of the Council's vision and priorities. We are an ambitious council, and ambitious for our communities too. We will work hard to enable all our villages and towns to thrive; and for our residents to lead healthy, happy lives.

3.2 We are working with suppliers to look beyond the financial cost of a contract to consider how the services they commission and procure can improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area.

3.3 It is also important that we maximise those opportunities to ensure that we protect our natural resources, whilst striving to become carbon net zero and addressing biodiversity loss.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)

4.1 The Social Value Statement supports the operations of the whole Council and will support the delivery of all Council Plan priorities.

5. Consultation Outcomes

5.1 The Social Value Statement has been informed through engagement across the Service and other Council Officers as appropriate. The feedback from this engagement was developed with research and review of best practice and models from other local authorities.

5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Members have considered and discussed the development of strategy; and feedback incorporated into the final draft

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Members may decide not to approve the Procurement Strategy, or they may decide to amend the strategy to reflect a different approach to procurement.

7. Reasons for the Recommendations

7.1 Without an agreed approach to managing and measuring Social Value in the commissioning and procurement process and the contracts we have with independent providers – there is little consistency to the agreeing and measuring any social gains.

7.2 The agreement, management and measurement of any Social Value 'gains' through contracts is crucial for several reasons:

- Accountability: we need to be accountable to residents and stakeholders – demonstrating how we are achieving Social Value through contracts
- Improvement: by measuring Social Value and reviewing what we are doing, we can work over time to improve our approach and performance
- Informed Decisions: Understanding social value informs commissioning and procurement decisions
- Impact Assessment: measuring social value allow us to track progress, identify intended and unexpected outcomes and demonstrate how providers are making a difference to the delivery of our ambition for our residents

7.3 Embedding Social Value in procurement and commissioning and focusing on how suppliers and contract decisions can support social, environmental and employment considerations - outcomes and contract decisions can be measured and made on Social Value as well as price and quality.

8. Climate and Biodiversity Implications

8.1 Seeking Social Value in the procurement of goods, works, services and utilities we use supports our Council Plan priorities and other important policies such as our Carbon Management Strategy, Climate Change Action plan.

8.2 Through monitoring and managing social value in contracts we will continue to develop and provide mechanisms for suppliers to engage with us on our priorities around climate and biodiversity and to use mechanisms to effectively track outcomes related to them.

8.3 For example, the climate and our ambition to be carbon net zero for scope 3 emissions by 2050. This can only be achieved through enhanced collaboration and a shared commitment from our stakeholders, including our supply chain.

9. Legal and Governance Implications

9.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental well-being in connection with public services contracts; and for connected purposes. The legislation requires that, when commissioning services subject to the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 (above prescribed value thresholds), authorities must 'consider': how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic social and environmental well-being of the relevant area; how in conducting the process of procurement the authority might act with a view to securing that improvement; and whether to undertake any consultation. The legislation provides that, when considering how such improvements may be secured, the authority must consider only matters that are relevant to the subject matter of the procurement and the extent to which it is proportionate in all the circumstances to take those matters into account.

9.2 Legal advice will be provided in relation to any legal implications arising in the delivery of the Social Value Statement.

10. Human Resources Health Wellbeing and Safety Implications

10.1 10.1 The Council has a responsibility under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that there are arrangements in place to ensure a healthy and safe working environment for all services for which it has responsibility. There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report/OD.

11. Financial Implications

11.1 There are no direct financial implications from agreeing the Social Value Statement. The financial and non-financial impact of delivery of social value activities will be monitored and reported. There is a potential risk that additional costs could be included within contract prices as social value impacts are delivered, monitored and reported but this will be identified and assessed as part of the overall value for money position.

12. Equality and Diversity Implications (please ensure these are compliant with the EIA Guidance)

12.1 Equality Screening is provided in Appendix .

13. Background Documents

13.1 Not applicable