

Social Value Policy – Cambridge City Council

Introduction

Cambridge City Council is committed to embedding Social Value across its operations, particularly in procurement, commissioning, contract and asset management. Social Value goes beyond legal compliance it's a whole-system approach aligned with our Community Wealth Building Strategy, enabling collaboration with businesses, the voluntary sector, and communities to maximise social, environmental, and economic benefits for Cambridge.

Background

Under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and updated by the Procurement Act 2023 and Procurement Regulations (2025), public bodies must consider the economic, social, and environmental well-being of their area in procurement. These regulations distinguish Social Value from core deliverables and promote inclusive, place-based procurement, removing barriers for small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Voluntary Community Sector Enterprises (VCSEs). Cambridge City Council commits to going beyond statutory requirements.

Definition

Social Value means securing broader community benefits through how we spend, manage assets, and deliver services. It considers not just *what* is delivered, but *how*, and the wider impact positive or negative on people, places, and the planet.

Policy Context

This policy supports the Council's [corporate priorities](#) under *One Cambridge, Fair for All*:

- Tackling climate and biodiversity emergencies
- Supporting those in the greatest need
- Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness.
- Modernising the Council to lead a greener city that is fair for all

Procurement is a key lever for delivering Social Value, linking to strategies on climate change, equalities, the Living Wage, asset use, and cultural development. See the [Social Value Framework](#) for strategic objectives and practical examples.

Delivery

Social Value will be embedded in procurement and contract management as follows:

1. Inclusion of Social Value metrics in all procurements, which will include environmental measures.
2. Minimum 10% weighting in evaluation; lower weightings require Director approval.
3. Social Value must benefit Cambridge City residents or those working within it.
4. Social Value offers must be contract-specific, not general corporate initiatives.
5. Use of National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes, Measures) to assess and compare offers transparently.
6. Businesses submitting tenders are encouraged to incorporate the Match My Project platform within their Social Value proposals.
7. All suppliers awarded contracts should register on the Match My Project platform.
8. Contract managers are responsible for monitoring delivery of Social Value commitments, using TOMs to assess both financial and non-financial impact.
9. Social Value commitments will be treated as all other contractual commitments.
10. Existing suppliers will be informed about and supported to engage with Social Value priorities and Match My Project.
11. Existing contractors without formal contractual measures regarding Social Value are encouraged through contract management meetings to contribute to the Cities ambitions.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to reflect legislative changes and evolving Council priorities.

Date written: 31 October 2025

Next review due: 31 October 2026