



Met Office

Commercial and Procurement

Social Value Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The aim of this policy is to set out how the Met Office will deliver social value through its commercial and procurement activities and to set the priorities in relation to social value.
- 1.2 The Met Office is required to consider how economic, social, and environmental well-being 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.
- 1.3 The Met Office already includes Social Value for all procurements over the relevant EU thresholds if relevant in our standard commercial questions (as defined by the legislation); this Policy provides a framework for this to ensure consistency across the Met Office regardless of the goods and services being procured.

2. WHAT IS 'SOCIAL VALUE'

2.1 There is no single definition of Social Value. Social Value is considered as the wider benefit gained by the local community, businesses and the environment through the better spending of public money.

2.2 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 does not provide a definition of Social Value, but 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.**”*

2.3 The Act specifies that the authority must consider only matters that are **relevant** and to what is proposed to be procured; and, in doing so, must consider the extent to which it is **proportionate** in all the circumstances to take those matters into account.

2.4 Social value is therefore about using the money we have more strategically, to produce a wider benefit than would otherwise have been achieved.

2.5 As financial pressures continue to rise and demand for services continues to grow, it is now more important than ever that we think differently when we spend money on public services. Therefore, we need to continually ask:

- a) What is important to the local community when delivering services?
- b) How can we deliver services differently that will impact positively on the local community and the environment?
- c) How can we support local businesses through public contracts?
- d) What are the current local challenges faced that could be better resolved by working together with our communities, partners and businesses?

3. WHAT WE CAN DO

3.1 For contracts over £100,000 a lifecycle document must be included as part of the whole life costs and benefits of a procurement within the Met Office, this now includes Social Value.

3.2 We need to consider how Social Value is implemented and monitored, when relevant, at all stages of the procurement and contract management process.

3.3 Met Office must continue to:

Embed Sustainability in the Met Office

Support health and wellbeing through improved procurement of weather and climate services and products

Ensure best value for every pound spent

3.4 Some good examples of criteria that can be utilised can be found in the TOMS National Framework which is part of the [Social Value Portal](#).



Document Responsibilities

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