



Promoting responsible procurement to achieve social, environmental, and economic value throughout our supply chains

November 2021

Introduction

The Met Office buys a wide range of goods, works and services from a varied and diverse supply chain, and it makes a significant contribution to the UK economy.

The need for the Met Office to drive social value is greater than ever, as public and private sectors continue to face unprecedented challenges in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Delivering social value has the potential to be transformational, it can bring opportunities to all, change lives and have a positive impact on the local economy.

We are ambitious, and our social value charter sets out the general principles that we will follow across all our commercial activity to deliver value for money, and achieve additional economic, social and environmental benefits, in compliance with the Public services (Social Value) Act 2012; the Equalities Act 2010 and other relevant legislation and policy.

What is Social Value?

Social Value

“The wider financial and non-financial impacts of projects and programmes including the wellbeing of individuals and communities, social capital and the environment.”

(Cabinet office, *Social value in procurement consultation document*, 2019).

Social Value isn't about costing more it's about thinking **differently**

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 reinforces these objectives and challenges the Met Office to consider how this can be further enhanced, in particular through its commercial activity. By embedding social value within the procurement process, we can achieve additional benefits generated by a contract which are beyond its **primary** purpose.

Social value makes a real difference to people's lives. The Met Office delivers weather and climate services globally, by embedding social value in our commercial practices, we can improve the lives of people by supporting employment opportunities, health objectives, food production, and improving travel networks.

Social value supports our journey to net zero as it can include requirements to reduce carbon emissions, or to improve recycling rates.

Our strategy

Our work supports businesses, governments, and the public to make better decisions that will keep UK citizens safe at home and abroad and helps the UK to thrive.

Our vision is to be recognised as global leaders in weather, climate science and services in our changing world, and fulfil our purpose to help people make better decisions to stay safe and thrive.

Our Purpose & Vision is underpinned by three enabling strategic anchors and key activity (see diagram below)

- Excellence
- Exceptional
- Extraordinary

Our purpose:

Why we exist

Helping you make better decisions **to stay safe and thrive**

Our vision:

What we will achieve by 2024

Recognised as global leaders in weather and climate science and services in our changing world

Strategic anchors:

These are the areas we will focus on.

The three areas overlap and complement each other.



Strategic actions:

Our priority activities which we'll monitor & measure these.

Our strategy

“Every single Met Office employee should, in the future, be able to see how their work contributes to our purpose of helping you “make better decisions to stay safe and thrive and aligns with the three strategic anchors”

(Penny Endersby Chief Executive)

The Met Office Values

Our values are about what we do as an organisation, they are what the Met Office stands for and what we want to achieve.



We're a force for good.



We're experts by nature.



We live and breathe it.



We're better together.



We keep evolving.

Our strategy and values when considering Social value

Our strategic anchors and activity ensure that we can see the “golden thread” that leads from our decision making and activity to our strategic goals.

By aligning our social value measures to our strategy, we will have a clear and systematic way to evaluate our priorities in the award of our contracts, and in ongoing contract management. This will also allow for key reporting mechanisms to be implemented.

This will be set out in our social value policy and performance framework, and we will show a clear link between Social Value themes and our organisational priorities.

Our values drive social value in everything we do. Social value shouldn't cost us more but will provide a mechanism for the Met Office and our supply chains to think innovatively, work better together and be a force for good.

What does social value mean for the Met Office?

Social value has a lasting impact on individuals, communities and the environment, and the Met Office is committed to ensure that the money it spends maximises any achievable benefits. This charter commits us to:

- Ensure our commercial practices deliver economic, environmental and social benefits in our contracts (including grants) using the central government social value model.

- Engage with our supply chains pre-procurement to identify opportunities for social value.
- Embed a standardised performance framework that reflects our strategy and values.
- Work with and learn from our supply chain to identify the best means to deliver social value.
- Ensure that social value requirements we use are relevant, proportionate and fair.
- Where we are bidding for external services, we will ensure that we have clear evidence that our staff understand social value, and that the Met Office can make a significant contribution to social value goals.
- Work with internal staff, businesses and other organisations subject to this charter to improve understanding of social value and provide information, training and support on processes.
- Promote other areas of responsible procurement including developing our markets, building diverse supply chains, ethical sourcing, and net zero.

The central government social value model

In September 2020 central government released its social value model. The model requires that social value should be explicitly evaluated in all central government procurement, **where the requirements are related and proportionate to the subject-matter of the contract**. This goes further than the Social Value Act which currently asks contracting authorities to only “consider” social value where relevant.

The central government model sets out 5 key social value themes that should be evaluated where it is considered appropriate and proportionate as part of the procurement process:

- COVID-19 recovery
- Tackling economic inequality
- Fighting climate change
- Equal opportunity
- Wellbeing

The “golden thread”

There should be a clear ‘golden thread’ from these priorities to the development of strategies and business cases for programmes and projects, through to procurement specifications and the assessment of quality when awarding of contracts.

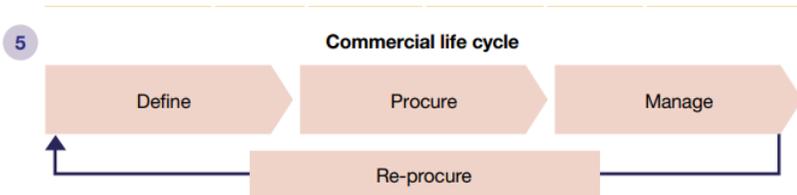
(GCF guide to using the social value model 2020)

We will align the 5 social value themes to our vision, purpose and strategic goals so we will be able to demonstrate both alignment to our strategy and the social value model.

Social Value and Procurement

When it is done well, public procurement can provide training opportunities, help build the local economy, increase employment opportunities in disadvantaged areas and have a positive impact on the environment.

We will embed social value in all areas of the commercial lifecycle below:



To enable the ‘golden thread’ approach this will start with the publication of a procurement pipeline, which will give a clear definition of the procurement need. We will also use our category strategies and market engagement activities to drive social value through the sourcing process, finishing with effective contract management. We will ensure social value is sought in accordance with the social value model on all contracts over the Regulatory Procurement Threshold (RPT). This will be applied in a proportionate and market appropriate approach.

All our evaluation criteria will be clear with a minimum of 10% of the evaluation score being attributable to social value. Reflecting our ambition in this area the % will be increased where we feel we can achieve a higher amount of added value.

How will we measure social value?

To ensure that we have a consistent performance framework, we will adopt a corporate approach to the measurement of social value and this will be detailed in our social value policy and toolkit.

This will mean that the process for defining social value will be standardised, and we will have a clear and systematic way to

evaluate social value in our contracts. We will also link the outcomes to our corporate strategy and the central government model.

How will we implement this charter?

The Met Office realises the importance of social value and as such it is important to drive the cultural change within the organisation, this is so everyone understands the importance of social value and knows how to build it into the commercial lifecycle as per the diagram below:



We will review our procurement and grant processes to ensure social value is embedded within our sourcing strategies and commercial templates.

The principles of social value and the social value model is that the application of any policy in this area remains **proportionate and relevant to the contract**, and each contract should be assessed separately.

To enable this, we will have a **responsible procurement toolkit** which will allow effective decision making to be made, and provide guidance on all the elements required. This will include guidance on social value, net zero, ethical procurement, and building diverse supply chains.

Leadership and governance for this charter

The leadership and governance of this approach will be led by the Executive Member for social value; Nick Jobling Chief Financial Officer The charter and policy content will be reviewed by the Commercial Team at least every 2 years, or in the event that legislation or policy is amended or replaced.