



DOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Social Value Policy

2026 Version

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INTRODUCTION

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and Procurement Act 2023 require all public bodies in England and Wales to consider how the services they commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area.

Dover Town Council will consider the ways that it could benefit society as part of each decision made in areas such as contract evaluation, supplier management and strategic planning to foster jobs, skills, support local business and tackle climate change.

The Council will think about how it can achieve outcomes in a more integrated way, considering long-term costs, sustainability and how inclusion of additional SV outcomes could potentially reduce pressures in other areas. The Council will encourage suppliers to adopt socially responsible policies and practices. It will seek partnerships with like-minded organisations and businesses to achieve SV Goals.

[\(Social Enterprise UK: The Social Value Guide 2012\)](#)

IMPLEMENTATION

Social Value describes the values, priorities, aims, benefits and principles which inform the Council's behaviours and approaches, namely:

- We will invest in ways that most benefit our local communities; increasing local wellbeing, employment and reducing inequality.
- We will use 'community sourcing' approaches as a means of regenerating local communities, both socially and economically. Think local to build the local economy.
- We recognise that tackling climate change will invest in a greener future.
- We value and intend to grow our relationship with the voluntary and community sector and small businesses.

Dover Town Council and all those involved in externally sourcing contracts will consider, as part of commissioning and the pre-procurement stage:

- How/what is to be procured may improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of a relevant area.
- How they might secure any such improvement; and
- Whether there is a need to undertake consultation on these matters.

MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Council will capture, record and track all Social Value and its impact delivered through our Contracts.

- Developing the confidence, skills and capacity of our people and suppliers.
- Council Officers will be expected to evidence that social value has been considered as part of any Procurement.
- SV priorities for commissioned services should be embedded throughout procurement activity and be clear in adverts and tender specifications. Officers will be responsible for agreeing social value criteria, as well as being open and transparent in terms of defining how social value elements will be weighted in the evaluation and decision-making processes.
- As appropriate, local communities should be engaged in shaping / deciding what is important to them, as well as engaging to understand their ideas for how they can contribute to social value.

- The manner in which evidence of social value outcomes are to be provided is not prescribed by the Acts or this policy. Depending on the requirements of each procurement exercise, DTC may choose to specify requirements explicitly within a tender or ask potential providers to produce their own innovative ideas.

The Council will evaluate the impact of SV delivery through: -

- Measuring inputs and outputs
- Measuring progress against outcomes such as the creation of jobs, skills and training opportunities.
- Attributing financial values to the above if appropriate
- Assessing outcomes and outputs as contributing to the delivery of the Dover Place Plan and drawing on other qualitative methods to add depth and context to the SV created. Measures must be put in place to ensure that agreed social value activity is monitored and tracked as part of any contracting arrangements.

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

A report outlining the Social Value that has been achieved will be produced by the Town Clerk annually and submitted to the Full Council.

SUMMARY

Overall, legislation has redefined “obtaining value for money through procurement” from being purely cost saving to adding Social Value, by “having regard to the importance of maximizing public benefit”. Dover Town Council embraces this change in direction and will design contract solutions with local people and community in mind, ensuring these deliver a positive impact for Dover Town.