



Social Value and Sustainability Policy

Coventry City Council

Appendix 1

Social Value and Sustainability Policy

1 Purpose and Introduction of the Policy

This policy outlines Coventry City Council's definition of Social Value and Sustainability and explains how Social Value and Sustainability are considered delivered through its day to day activities. Coventry City Council has embedded the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 within procurement processes and subsequent third-party contracts where proportionate and relevant.

Coventry City Council sees Social Value and Sustainability as having a much wider context than simply procurement and subsequent third-party contracts within its organisation, such as within Major Development Project Planning. Long term sustainable solutions, and additional value and benefits can also be driven and delivered to our communities by engaging and working closely with other key anchor institutions within the City.

This view is also in line with the [One Coventry \(Council Plan 2016-24\)](#) approach.

Within a climate of ever-reducing resources, there are new challenges and we need to explore opportunities to operate in different ways in order to maximise our effectiveness. This means working together within the Council and with organisations, groups and residents around Coventry to benefit our communities and those who live, work and study in Coventry.

Coventry City Council is seeking to lead by example on the low carbon agenda and aims to be as sustainable as possible and encourage other organisations and businesses to follow suit.

2. Background to the Policy

Coventry City Council implemented its first Social Value Policy in 2014, following Publication of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. This policy is the second revision and has been updated to fall in line with the latest practices of evaluating, embedding and measuring Social Value and sustainability.

This policy replaces the Council's Energy and Water Management Policy and covers a much broader definition of sustainability. This new policy will ensure that the way we operate as a Council will be as sustainable as possible and help the city to achieve its climate change targets. Underpinning this policy sits a number of specific sustainability policies such as 'Energy & Carbon' and 'Single Use Plastics', which support the Council's Social Value and Sustainability outcomes as detailed in Appendix 1.

Coventry City Council plays an important role in the provision of services to the people of Coventry as well as our influence over economic growth and development. Our property estate, operations, and the actions of our staff and suppliers have environmental impacts and we are seeking to reduce our impacts including carbon

emissions within the council and the city. The specific sustainability policies aim to set out the context in which we will work both internally and with our stakeholders to manage our environmental responsibilities and to ensure we lead by example and work towards a clean, green, sustainable Coventry.

However, we know that we cannot do this alone and One Coventry will help us to challenge ourselves to ensure that our focus is on those things that people value most. It will help us to do the right thing and be clear about why we do things and why we can't, but it will also help us to bring in new ideas and involve the right people. We have to enable our residents to do more for themselves and change traditional relationships.

3. Defining Social Value and Sustainability

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 does not define what is meant by 'Social Value'. Therefore, Coventry City Council has adopted and developed the definition of Social Value as originally set out by the Sustainable Procurement Taskforce. Social Value and sustainability are defined as:

The umbrella of 'Economic', 'Social' and 'Environmental' themes, whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst protecting, sustaining and enhancing the environment for the long term.

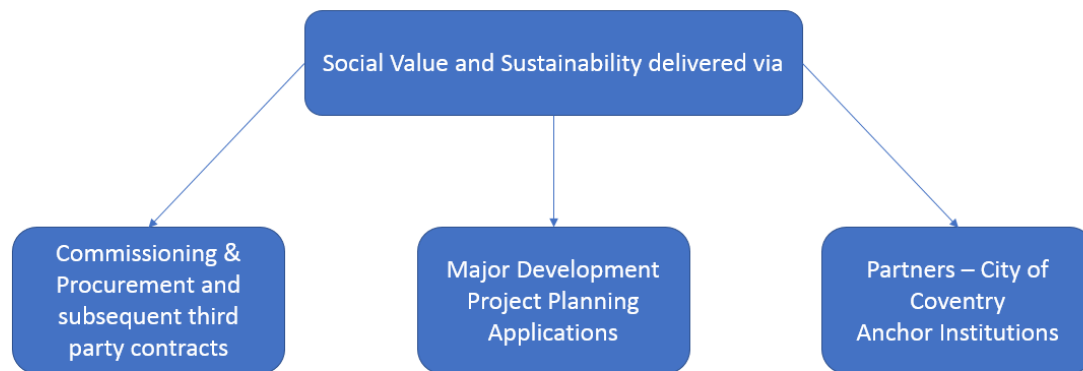
4. Our Social Value and Sustainability Outcomes

Coventry City Council has developed a set of representative and example outcomes that allows it to consider the economic, social and environmental well-being of Coventry City and its residents, as per Appendix 1. These outcomes are based on the vision, values and priorities contained in the [One Coventry \(Council Plan 2016-24\)](#). Suppliers, Contractors and Developers should consider the Council's Plan, as well as the Social Value and sustainability requirements of the individual contract or planning permission they are applying for and how they can align their bid submission/planning application to meet the required outcomes.

The City Council has committed to pay its' staff directly employed the Living Wage Foundation 'Real' Living Wage. We will be encouraging our sub-contractors and partners to also follow our lead to promote this objective.

5. Delivery of Social Value and Sustainability

Coventry City Council delivers Social Value and Sustainability through various channels as listed below:



5. 1 Commissioning & Procurement and Subsequent Third-Party Contracts

5.1.1 Consideration

Before commencing a procurement process, the Council considers, how the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City may be improved through the procurement of its services and subsequent third-party contracts.

The aim of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 is not to alter the commissioning and procurement processes, but to ensure that as part of these processes, Coventry City Council gives consideration to the wider impact of the services delivery. It allows the Council for example, to choose a supplier under a tendering process who not only provides the most economically advantageous offer e.g. providing consideration for quality and cost, but one which goes beyond the basic contract terms and secures wider benefits for the community.

The Act applies to services contracts and contracts which combine service with the purchase or hire of goods. However, the Council has for many years considered social, economic and environmental issues when procuring goods, services and works. Therefore, the Council will continue to encourage consideration of Social Value outcomes in all contracts above the EU threshold, where it can be evidenced that it is relevant to the subject matter of the contract. For those contracts that fall below the EU threshold, the approach should be to maximise these outcomes where possible and practical to do so.

5.1.2 Consultation

In discharging its statutory duties, the Council is required to consider whether consultation should take place as part of the commissioning process, so as to allow the community and voluntary sectors to be more closely involved; this again ties in with the One Coventry approach. Consultation should be considered as part of the process of looking at how a procurement might be offered for tender, in such a way to improve the area's economic, social and environmental well-being.

5.1.3 Implementation

The Council has also developed a Procurement & Commissioning Social Value and Sustainability Implementation Framework (Appendix 2), which sets out the Council's approach to delivering its Social Value and Sustainability Policy. The Framework sets out how the Council will ensure that Social Value and Sustainability is embedded in its commissioning cycle, the governance arrangements in place to deliver and a set of indicators that will be used to consider the potential Social Value and Sustainability that could be delivered with regard to the Council's Social Value & Sustainability outcomes.

5.1.4 Evaluation

The Council procures a wide range of goods and services, and it is recognised that there can be no 'one size fits all' model. This Social Value and Sustainability policy will, therefore, need to be applied in a proportionate manner and be tailored to reflect the service or goods to be procured. It is the role of service commissioners and procurement leads to consider, on a contract by contract basis, the potential Social Value outcomes that could be delivered through the procurement process and the most appropriate procurement strategy and Social Value and Sustainability evaluation tools to achieve these outcomes. The evaluation tools utilized can be of both an objective and/or subjective nature, to quantify the Social Value and Sustainability offered as part of the procurement & commissioning exercise.

5.1.5 Demonstration

Applications to provide services from organisations should therefore *demonstrate* their, and where appropriate their supply chains', ability to add economic, social and environmental value to the City above and beyond simply providing the tendered service and to provide evidence which would contribute to the outcomes set out in Appendix 1.

5.2 Major Development Project Planning Applications

5.2.1 Consideration

All major planning applications (as defined by the Town and Country Planning Act) will be asked to develop a Social Value and Sustainability action plan incorporating jobs, skills, supply chain, community & school engagement and sustainability.

5.2.2 Consultation

A planning consultation will be attached to the planning application relating to a Social Value and Sustainability action plan. The developer/contractor must meet with the Economic Development Service (EDS) Social Value and Sustainability officer to develop a plan and set targets/outcomes in relation to the project. One Coventry will enable the Council to talk & work with the right groups & residents, to ensure people's opinions are heard and acted on.

5.2.3 Implementation

All major development projects must engage with the EDS Social Value and Sustainability action plan or the planning consultation will not be discharged against the planning application.

5.2.4 Evaluation

Developers/contractors are required to complete the EDS submission form detailing the measures and outcomes they plan to achieve in relation to Social Value and Sustainability on the major development site

5.2.5 Measurement / Demonstration

Developers/contractors must meet with Coventry City Council EDS service to demonstrate that action is being taken on the plan by liaising with identified stakeholders. Evidence of achievements against targets must be submitted quarterly for monitoring.

Further information on the Economic Development Service can be viewed in our Economic Growth & Prosperity Strategy for the City. Economic Growth & Prosperity Strategy for Coventry 2018 – 2022

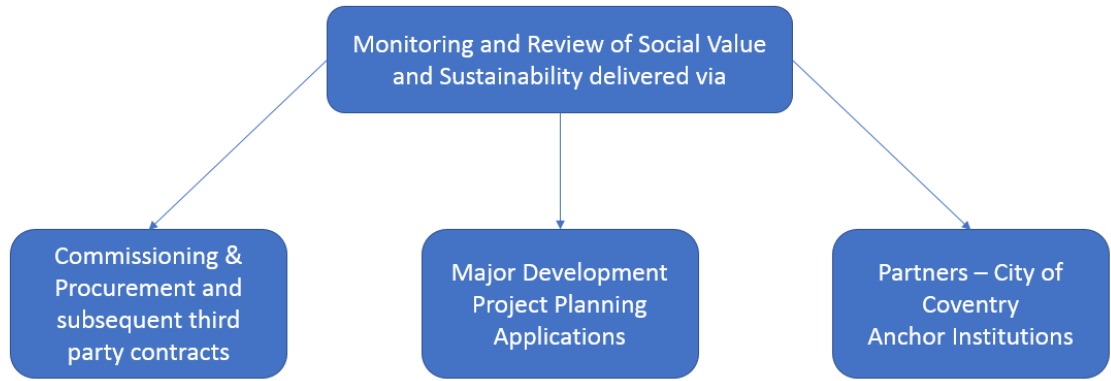
https://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/28142/economic_growth_and_prosperity_strategy_for_coventry

5.3. Partners – City of Coventry Anchor Institutions

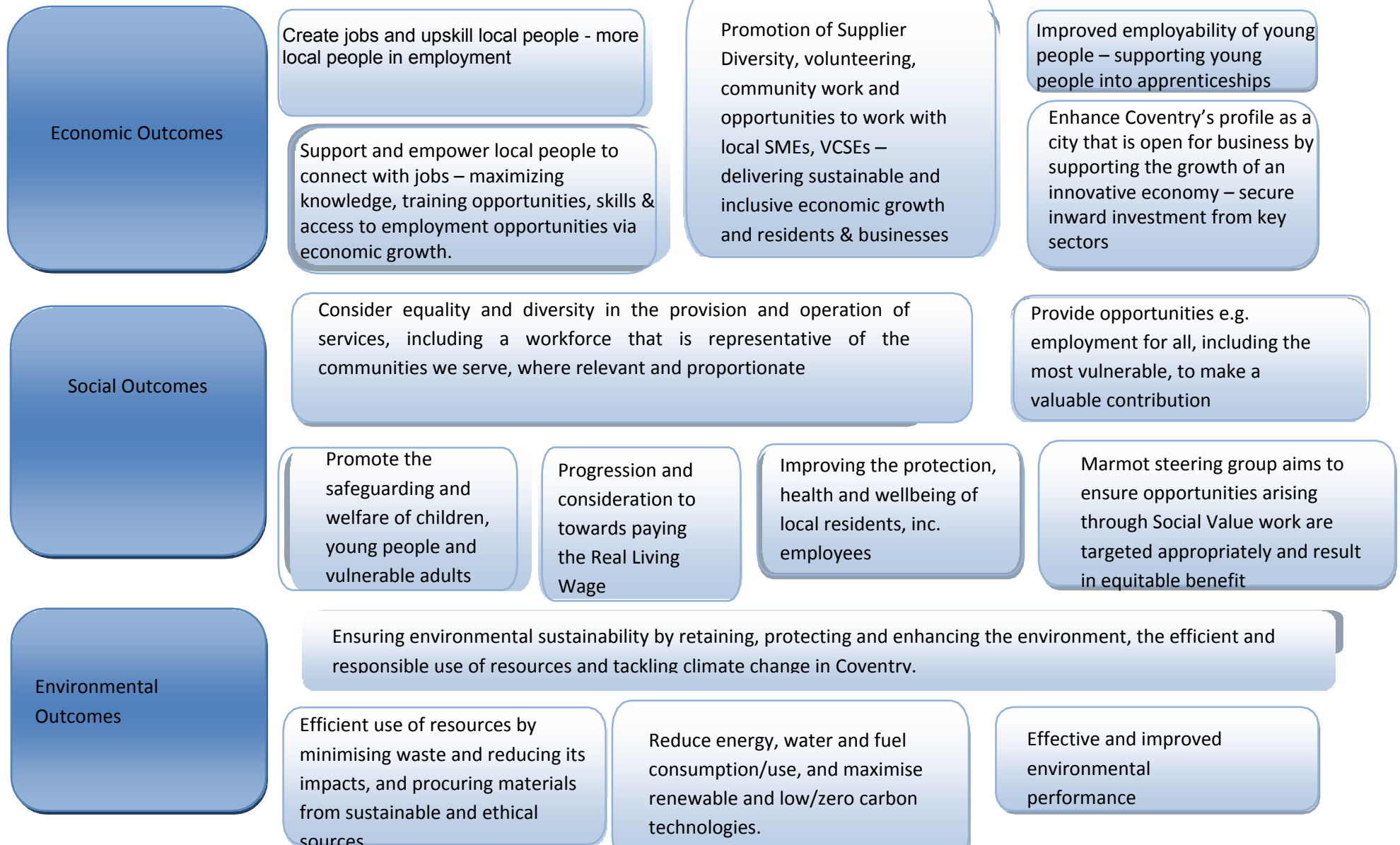
- 5.3.1 The Council will work towards a shared set of Social Value and Sustainability principles with its Partners and key anchor institutions within the City. Where possible, the Council will collaborate with its Partners and others through One Coventry, thus identifying key links and work with them on specific initiatives that align with both the Council's and the Partner's individual Social Value and Sustainability outcomes.

6. Monitoring and Review of Social Value and Sustainability Delivered

The Social Value and Sustainability Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis i.e. through the measurement of the four main areas below with use of objective and/or subjective criteria, to quantify the Social Value and Sustainability delivered. Reports on the Social Value and Sustainability delivered will be submitted to the Council's relevant Cabinet Member(s) on an annual basis and will also be considered through the ongoing monitoring of One Coventry.



Appendix 1: Our Social Value and Sustainability Outcomes where relevant and proportionate



Note: The example Outcomes listed above is not exhaustive list of outcomes and it should be noted that many of the Outcomes may apply across more than one Theme, e.g. Real Living Wage could also feature as an Economic Outcome (as well as a Social Outcome)

Throughout the Procurement & Commissioning process, the Council will ensure Social Value and Sustainability is considered and subsequently delivered

Governance Arrangements

The Council will use its existing governance arrangements, through both its democratic governance, as set out in the Council's Constitution, and its Strategic Category Panels, in order to ensure scrutiny and control of procurement decisions so that the Council achieves Social Value, where appropriate.

The Strategic Category Panels ensure that the Council achieves the best possible outcomes using the resources available, as efficiently as possible. By embedding Social Value and Sustainability and One Coventry into the Procurement governance documents, which are taken to Strategic Category Panels for approval, the Council will meet its obligations under the Public Services (Social Value) 2012 Act.

Procurement & Commissioning Exercise

The opportunities to secure improvements to social, environmental or economic wellbeing will vary from contract to contract. Consideration of Social Value and Sustainability is built into all the stages of the Council's procurement & commissioning exercise – when reviewing service provision; conducting a needs analysis; consulting stakeholders and/or the marketplace; and specifying the services to be procured. Together with work through One Coventry to engage residents, businesses and organisations, this offers more genuine opportunities to local Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs) and community groups to become involved, ensuring Supplier Diversity, whilst maintaining our focus on obtaining value for money.

Social Value and Sustainability Indicators

The Council has identified a set of indicators that can be used to measure and track the amount of Social Value & Sustainability delivered through contracting arrangements. When commissioning goods and services, commissioners and procurement leads must consider the indicators for inclusion into the award criteria or as a performance obligation, where appropriate. These indicators are not an exhaustive list, and commissioners and procurement leads may wish to consider additional indicators.