

London Borough of Waltham Forest

Report Title	Social Impact Report 2023 – 2024 Social Value Annual Statement 2024
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Meeting / Date	Cabinet, 10 September 2024
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Cabinet portfolio	Councillor Paul Douglas, Portfolio Lead Member for Finance and Resources
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Wards affected	All
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Public access	Open
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Appendices	Appendix 1 Social Impact Report 2023-2024 Appendix 2 Social Value Annual Statement 2024 Appendix 3 EA Screening
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1. **Summary**

- 1.1 Social value refers to the wider financial and non-financial value created by an organisation through its day-to-day activities, in terms of the wellbeing of individuals and communities, social capital created and the environment.
- 1.2 Each year the Council celebrates its social value progress and states its future direction by publishing a Social Impact Report and a Social Value Annual Statement.
- 1.3 The Social Impact Report provides an overview of social value outputs and outcomes since the inception of the function in December 2020, with a strong emphasis on the previous reporting period (January 2023 to March 2024) and provides a comprehensive overview of the impact generated for our Borough.
- 1.4 The Social Value Annual Statement sets out the Council's social value strategy and has been updated to align with Mission Waltham Forest to ensure that it aligns with the Council's objective to achieve a more equal borough by 2030.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1.1 Approve the Social Impact Report 2023-2024 at Appendix 1 to the report.
- 2.1.2 Approve the Social Value Annual Statement 2024 at Appendix 2 to the report.

3. **Proposals**

- 3.1 The obligation to consider social value in public sector procurement has been a legal requirement for public authorities, such as the Council, for over a decade now. However, it wasn't until the creation of the Social Value function in December 2020 that the Council began to make significant progress in this area, to the extent to which it is now considered as one of the leaders within its field.

Social Impact Report 2023-2024

- 3.2 The Social Impact Report encapsulates the Council's journey towards advancing social value, offering insights into our progress, and showcasing impactful human narratives.
- 3.3 Beyond fulfilling contractual obligations, procurement serves as a vehicle for delivering socio-economic and environmental advantages to our residents, through social value. Social value delivery aligns with the Council's core priorities of Missions Waltham Forest for 2024 and into the future.
- 3.4 The Social Impact Report sets out in detail our achievements over the prior reporting report. The high-level summary is that since its implementation from January 2021, the Council has obtained demonstrable social value benefit from its contracts of £48.5m, of which £40.8m has so far been delivered for the benefit of our communities. Within the past year social value has delivered £8.7m of demonstrable benefit.
- 3.5 Whilst the high-level financial summary is making a demonstrable impact upon residents in the Borough, the individual and localised initiatives detailed in the report are at the core of helping the Council to address inequality within the Borough.

Social Value Annual Statement 2024

- 3.6 The Social Value Annual Statement enables the Council to outline social value key areas of focus, operational procedures, successes and to communicate key messages and secure support from officers, partners, suppliers and other locally based organisations to help create social value benefits for the Borough.
- 3.7 The Social Value Annual Statement has been updated to align with Mission Waltham Forest to ensure that the Council's social value approach aligns with the Council's objective to achieve a more equal borough by 2030.
- 3.8 A key focus in the coming year will be ensuring that social value outputs are bespoke with a hyper-local approach, with interventions that are co-

designed with communities and generates positive impact and delivers tangible and meaningful outcomes. This will be underpinned by stronger data analysis, underpinned by local needs analysis, that targets specific areas of inequality.

Whilst the Council has achieved good success with its higher value procurement contracts, it also needs to focus on the larger volume of smaller value (sub-£1m) contracts. The creation of a Social Investment Fund will address this by seeking cash or in-kind donations from suppliers that can be aggregated and better deployed to need within the Borough, with a strong emphasis on addressing inequality.

4. Options & Alternatives Considered

- 4.1 Not producing the success of the social value accomplishments may result in lack of transparency and national recognition of the Council achievements in this area.

5. Council Strategic Priorities (and other National or Local Policies or Strategies)

- 5.1 This documents fully supports the Council priorities, which are the main drivers for the development of both, the Social Impact Report 2023-2024, and Social Value Annual Statement 2024. The papers promote economic, social, and environmental ethics in the procurement process, which will benefit the local area now and in the future.
- 5.2 Both documents link in with national and international guidance, policy, and legislation. For example, the Social Value Act, DEFRA's Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan, and the European Commission's Green Public Procurement agenda.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 In compiling and updating these documents the social value team has engaged with a range of stakeholders from across the Council, such as those with responsibility for commissioning services and setting policy. In addition, feedback from third parties, including community groups and the Council's supply chain have been consulted.
- 6.2 The creation of Mission Waltham Forest has begun to break down organisational silos within the Council and identify shared goals for initiatives. In particular there are strong benefits in utilising social value to support Stronger Communities, both in terms of supporting outcomes as well as protecting the Council's financial position by utilising the Council's supply chain to fund/undertake locally relevant initiatives.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk

7.2 Social Value supports the Council in its mission to achieve a firm financial footing. It achieves this by encouraging suppliers within its supply chain to add value to the Borough in terms of employment, training and supply chain, community cohesion and green agenda. In particular, initiatives that would otherwise have been funded by the Council are supported by the supply chain.

7.3 **Legal**

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires public authorities to consider the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area when undertaking public procurements. The Act sets out a number of requirements that public authorities must comply with before starting the procurement process including considering:

- how what is being procured might improve economic, social and environmental wellbeing of its area.
- how the improvement might be secured and
- whether to have a consultation on the potential improvement themselves or how they be secured

7.4 **Equalities and Diversity**

7.4.1 An EA Screening was completed. The main conclusion is that there will be no negative impacts on equalities. It is believed that this policy will have a positive impact where it relates to social and economic sustainability. For example, it advocates asking suppliers to train and hire apprentices and economically disadvantaged groups.

7.5 **Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)**

7.5.1 Both papers promote sustainable approach and focus on sustainable outcomes including:

- Measured Tonnes of Waste Reduction through; recycling, diverting waste from landfills or incineration or/and the re-use of products and materials.
- Savings in CO2e emissions achieved through de-carbonisation.
- Car Miles saved through cycling to work scheme, car-pooling programmes or the use of public transport on projects.
- Training on Climate Change and Carbon reduction for all supplier staff on contract.

1.1 **Council Infrastructure**

1.1.1. No impact

Background Information (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Social Value Data Captured on the Social Value Portal.