

London Borough of Waltham Forest

Report Title	Social Value Report 2024/2025
Meeting / Date	Cabinet, 9 September 2025
Cabinet portfolio	Councillor Paul Douglas, Portfolio Lead Member for Finance & Resources
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Wards affected	All
Public access	Open
Appendices	Appendix 1 Social Value Report 2024-2025 Appendix 2 – Equalities Screener Appendix 3 – Sustainability Implications



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 an Annual Social Impact Report.
- 1.3 The annual Social Value Report 2024/25 covers progress and activities delivered by the Council supply chain between April 2024 and March 2025.
- 1.4 The Social Value 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.
- 1.5 The overall purpose of the report is to increase visibility of the social value agenda, highlight the accomplishments achieved through the social value avenue and provides recommendations for future development approach and strategy. We have developed an approach that is centred around and focus' on local community development, health & wellbeing, improvement of environment and in long term substantial enhancement to our residents' livelihoods and quality of lives.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the Social Value Report 2024-2025 attached as Appendix 1 for publication.

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.
- 3.2 The Social Value 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 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 c.£51m, of which £49m has so far been delivered for the benefit of our communities. Within the past year social value has delivered £9m 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.

4. **Options & Alternatives Considered**

- 4.1 Not publishing the report 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 document fully supports the Council priorities, which are the main drivers for the development of the Social Value Report 2024-2025. The paper promotes economic, social, and environmental ethics in the procurement process, which will benefit the local area now and in the future.

- 5.2 The document links 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. 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**

- 7.1.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the contents of this report.

7.2 **Legal**

- 7.2.1 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

- 7.2.2 Under section 12 of the Procurement Act 2023 the Council as a contracting authority must have regard to the importance of maximising public benefit when carrying out procurement. Under section 13 of the 2023 Act the Council must also have regard to the National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS) and the NPPS has as a priority that 'contracting authorities should deliver social and economic value that supports the Government's missions including by working in partnership across organisational boundaries.

7.3 **Equalities and Diversity**

- 7.3.1 An EA Screening was completed and is attached as Appendix 2. 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.

7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)

7.4.1 The paper champions a sustainable approach to procurement and commissioning ensuring that environmental considerations are embedded into decision-making and delivery. It focuses on achieving measurable, long-term outcomes. The Sustainability Implications Guidance matrix has been completed (Appendix 3).

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

7.5 Council Infrastructure

7.5.1 There are no specific impacts on Council infrastructure arising from this report.

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

None