

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Spending and investing locally through innovative procurement processes

Through its Knowsley Better Together Principles, Knowsley Council aims to prioritise spending, investment or recruitment locally to build social value.

There is a strong commitment within the Council to raise the profile of high quality procurement and its role in delivering benefits to the local community. By prioritising social value outcomes in procurement activity, the Council can help create strong and well connected public, private and social sectors that enable communities to be more resilient.

Knowsley Council sees itself as being far advanced in relation to social value and has worked hard in recent years to increase the pace of local activity: it has been recognised as one of the minority of local authorities which are pro-active in developing the agenda, as well as taking it beyond the minimum legal requirements. Procurement is seen as operating a valuable service at the core of the Council's business that can bring real life benefits to Knowsley's communities.

A revised, more vibrant [Procurement Strategy and Transformation Plan](#) was launched in 2016 and identifies a number of key themes including collaboration with other organisations, improving the impact that procurement has on the local economy and ensuring that all staff have access to training, advice and guidance as to how their procurement activity can build social value.

Social Value Policy is included within the Council's formal constitutional arrangements under Contract Procedure Rules and requires officers to consider Social Value in all contracting activities.

This has led to a year-on-year increase in the proportion of contracts let with social value embedded, including practical examples such as:

- Apprenticeship and other employment opportunities;

- Maximising locally-based supply chain companies;
 - School engagement activities (including site visits and careers advice); and
 - Training and other community activities for local residents.
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