



## SOCIAL VALUE

Newcastle City Council

# Securing investment in our communities through our commitment to social value

In Newcastle, we believe social value - as well as financial value - is important, and should be considered in all our decisions, particularly where we are commissioning and procuring from partner organisations. We have made changes to our ways of working to make sure we consider social value in every part of our commissioning and procurement cycle.

Our Newcastle Social Value Commitment means wherever we can we will work to spend our funding locally, keep a focus on what communities say is valuable to them, show ethical leadership and make green and sustainable choices.

Last year, we spent over £180 million with organisations within Newcastle and almost £269 million with organisations in the North East. Next year, we anticipate some 40% of our influenceable spend will be with organisations within Newcastle and 65% in the North East. We expect 15-20% of that spend to be with voluntary and community organisations.

As a major employer and investor, we recognise the significant impact our own actions can have and we also know that positive impact can be vastly increased if partners work together. With this in mind, we are working hard to communicate the steps we have taken to secure and measure social value and to promote this message among our partners.

Buying goods and services from local organisations is part of our much wider approach to community wealth building. This draws on a much wider set of powers, resources and community assets we can bring to help generate and sustain community wealth.

For example the Newcastle Fund has played a vital part in sustaining community-based initiatives in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors over the past seven years. We will also continue to unleash the power of council-owned assets in communities. By offering residents greater ownership of these assets, we give them shared interest in their community wealth. To date, 16 facilities have transferred to communities, with negotiations ongoing on a further 12 facilities.

We have also created a £1 million Life Chances Fund to improve access to economic opportunity for the city's most deprived residents. Working with partners, the Life Chances Fund will help people overcome barriers to employment. This will help fulfil their potential, making a positive, sustainable difference to communities.

**For further information contact:**

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<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/business/doing-business/social-value-commitment>