

SOCIAL VALUE POLICY

Effective Date				Version Number	0.3
Classification		Equality Impact Assessment	n/a	Data Protection Impact Assessment	n/a
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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy sets out The Barnet Group's approach to generating social value when procuring new and existing services, and the expectations on our contractors. It replaces any previous versions endorsed by The Barnet Group and its subsidiaries.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to The Barnet Group, and its subsidiaries Barnet Homes and Opendoor Homes, referred to collectively as The Barnet Group within this policy, including its Boards, Committees, Employees and Volunteers.
- 2.3 This policy also applies to the contractors and subcontractors of The Barnet Group who are procured to complete work on behalf of The Barnet Group, as outlined within our **Procurement Procedure and Contract Procedure Rules**.
- 2.4 In implementing this policy The Barnet Group will:
- Comply with legislative requirements;
 - Ensure the policy is part of its procurement and contract management process;
 - Ensure the implementation of this policy yields social, environmental and economic benefit to its residents and the wider community of Barnet; and,
 - Communicate the effectiveness and impact of the policy.

3. POLICY

3.1. Definitions

- 3.1.1. **Social Value** relates to the positive impact that a company creates for society and the community through its activities by ensuring it provides social, environmental, and economic benefit to its residents and the wider community.
- 3.1.2. **Procurement** refers to the process of acquiring goods, works, and services from external suppliers, including all stages from identifying needs, sourcing, tendering, evaluation, contract award, and contract management.
- 3.1.3. **Contractor** means any individual, company, or organisation engaged through a formal agreement to deliver goods, works, or services on behalf of the contracting authority.
- 3.1.4. **Economic Benefit** refers to financial and economic gains delivered through activities such as job creation, local employment, use of local supply chains, skills development, and supporting local businesses and economic growth.

- 3.1.5. **Social Benefit** refers to improvements to the wellbeing and quality of life of individuals and communities, including initiatives that promote inclusion, community, equality, health, education, and community engagement.
- 3.1.6. **Environmental Benefit** refers to positive impacts on the natural environment, including reducing carbon emissions, minimising waste, enhancing biodiversity, promoting sustainability, and improving resource efficiency.

3.2. Background

- 3.2.1. The Public Services (Social Value) Act came into force on 31 January 2013. It requires those that commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic, and environmental benefits. The Act is a tool to assist commissioners of public services to gain more value for money when procuring public services.
- 3.2.2. In June 2018, central government announced it would go further and explicitly evaluate social value when awarding most major contracts.
- 3.2.3. The Procurement Act 2023, which came fully into force in February 2025, updated the legislative landscape for social value.
- 3.2.4. Alongside the Act, Procurement Policy Note 002 (*published February 2025*) introduced a new Social Value Model (TOM's) for central government bodies, outlining five key missions and eight intended outcomes that central government social value initiatives should seek to support. From 1 October 2025, PPN 002 must be applied to procurements commenced under the Act.
- 3.2.5. PPN 002 sets a minimum 10% weighting for social value in central government contract evaluations.

3.3. Our Social Value Principles

- 3.3.1. We have developed the following set of principles that are the foundation of the Social Value Policy:
- We seek to maximise opportunities to work with partners and stakeholders
 - We prioritise long-term improved outcomes over short-term 'fixes', prioritising prevention and targeted early intervention
 - We build stronger, safer communities with cohesive neighbourhoods, which have zero-tolerance for abuse or crime in any capacity
 - We use our assets effectively to generate returns for our communities – both social and financial.
 - We secure value for money in all we undertake and align this to our wider strategic and corporate objectives.
 - We believe our contractor partners who work with us have great potential in contributing to our building of sustainable communities through economic, social, environmental and well-being activities.

3.4. Our Approach

- 3.4.1. The Barnet Group considers the additional social benefits that can be achieved in the delivery of its contracts, including giving due regard to the impact on local communities and the environment. In recognising this, we are committed to working towards a more sustainable society and to continually improve the positive impacts we make.
- 3.4.2. A major aspect of our social value work is generated through our procurement process, wherein social value an essential aspect of funding requirements. We evaluate applicants on specific requirements concerning social value proportionate to the value, length and duration of the contract.
- 3.4.3. The social value we are looking for during procurement includes a focus on tackling economic inequality, creating skills and employment, driving equal opportunity, fighting climate change, aiming to meet London Borough of Barnet's net zero target of 2030, promoting wellbeing in our communities and other business priorities based on the needs of the local communities at that time.
- 3.4.4. When a commissioning team evaluates social value, they will typically assess two aspects: the credibility of the commitments offered in the bid, and the bidder's ability to measure and report on delivery. A well-framed social value response will set out specific, measurable commitments aligned to the commissioner's priorities – drawing on the relevant Themes Outcomes Measures (TOMs) – and explain how outcomes will be tracked and reported.
- 3.4.5. We are looking to generate additionality through our social value work for the public good. We are focused on local impact, and fostering an environment of collaboration and inclusivity in our communities. During our delivery of social value, we will always be transparent around the procurement of suppliers and their impact. We produce a yearly social value report, which can be found on our website.

3.5. Contractor Expectations

- 3.5.1. The Barnet Group expects suppliers to provide opportunities where they can make an impact and have a contract of longevity and scale to deliver social value.
- 3.5.2. The specific Social Value requirements depend on the contract being offered. As such, social value is evaluated where the requirements are related and proportionate to the subject matter of the contract.
- 3.5.3. Not all of the missions set out in the social value model will be relevant and appropriate for every contract procured. Where applicable they will be tailored to ensure they are related and proportionate to the subject matter of the contract.

3.6. How Social Value is Measured and Evaluated

- 3.6.1. The Barnet Group utilises the National TOMs (Themes, Outcomes, Measures) framework to measure and evaluate social value contributions. The framework works as follows:
- **Themes:** the five overarching areas of social value: Jobs, Growth, Social, Environment, and Innovation are the basis of where we are looking for investment in our communities.
 - **Outcomes:** the specific changes or benefits targeted within each theme. For example within the jobs theme, increasing the number of local people employed in a community or

within the Environment theme, increasing biodiversity. The National TOMs framework includes 20 core outcomes

- **Measures:** the quantifiable actions taken to deliver outcomes. For example, using the examples above, the number of jobs, or habitat creation respectively. The National TOMs include 48 core measures, these are not exhaustive.

- 3.6.2. At The Barnet Group social value at the point of procurement is evaluated based on qualitative responses from bidders, and not on volumes. This means that larger suppliers are not able to win contracts on scale alone; all bidders must set out what they will deliver and how they will deliver it and it is this information that will be scored in bid evaluations.
- 3.6.3. The minimum weighting that should be applied to social value is 10%. Full guidance can be found in our *Procurement Procedure and Contract Procedure Rules*.
- 3.6.4. During the contract period, we use the framework to measure the impact of the investment, and report on our social value generation in our annual social value report, available on our website.

3.7. Social Value vs Corporate Social Responsibility

- 3.7.1. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) typically refers to voluntary activities an organisation undertakes beyond its legal obligations -- charitable giving, staff volunteering programmes, environmental commitments.
- 3.7.2. Social value in a procurement context is more specific: it refers to the measurable additional benefit created through the way a contract is delivered, assessed against the commissioner's stated priorities and measured using frameworks such as TOMs. Social value commitments in a bid are contractually binding; CSR activities are not.
- 3.7.3. As an organisation we will endeavour to encourage our contractors to consider their corporate and social responsibility obligations to provide further investment into the communities in which they operate.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 **The Board** has overall accountability for ensuring The Barnet Group complies with legislative and regulatory requirements.
- 4.2 **The Executive Management Team** has overall accountability for this policy.
- 4.3 **Heads of Service** have overall operational accountability for ensuring this policy is followed, and that staff are aware of it.
- 4.4 **Head of Engagement and Procurement Manager** is responsible for implementing this policy.
- 4.5 **All staff** should familiarise themselves with this policy and comply with it when completing activities related to social value.

5. EQUALITIES

- 5.1 The Barnet Group is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, fairness, and accessibility. We recognise that all customers should be treated equally and fairly regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity,

race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation, and we will not directly or indirectly discriminate against any person or group in implementing this policy and its associated procedure.

- 5.2 We will act sensitively towards the diverse needs of individuals and communities and may provide communications in alternative formats where practicable and appropriate to assist customers with distinct communication needs. Exceptions may be made to this policy in order to accommodate an individual's needs, and The Barnet Group will consider requests for reasonable adjustments in line with the Equality Act 2010.

6. FEEDBACK

- 6.1 Anyone who is dissatisfied with any aspect of the services provided by The Barnet Group will have the opportunity to seek redress through our Complaints and Compliments policy. We welcome all feedback, good or bad, in all formats, and will provide reasonable support as required to enable people to make complaints.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 7.1 We will monitor the effectiveness and implementation of this policy and will recommend changes to improve service delivery where appropriate.
- 7.2 We will produce a social value annual report, that outlines the contributions, outcomes and impact of our contractors investments bring to our Barnet communities

8. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013
- The Procurement Act 2023

9. LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

- Procurement Procedure and Contract Procedure Rules

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Type of Change	Date	Revisions from Previous Issues
0.1	Document creation		