

# Thurrock Council's Social Values Framework

## 1.0 Context:

We are committed to acting in a socially responsible way and to influence our partners, communities and those that we work with to reflect this principle. Our values and commitments to social responsibility are highlighted in the council's community strategy and embedded through a number of activities including our work with the voluntary, community and faith sector and through the implementation of the Thurrock Joint Compact.

We have prepared a social values framework conceived from the council's response to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 which places a duty on all public authorities to have regard to social, economic and environmental wellbeing in connection with public service contracts to which the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) apply. The Council will also apply the social values-based approach to contracts to which the Public Contracts Regulations do not apply.

This social values framework has been designed with due regard to Thurrock's Community Strategy and corporate commitments and provides a simple template of the priority outcomes that our communities wish us to achieve through the design and delivery of our programmes, strategies, services and commissioned activities in Thurrock.

## 2.0 Social Values Framework

Social Value is loosely defined as *'the additional benefit to the community from a commissioning/procurement process over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and outcomes'*.

A social values-led approach reflects many of the principles of public service reform, as it is focused on using the collective resources of the council and the organisations that we work with in new and different ways to improve both outcomes and value.

Our vision is: *'to provide a framework of local priorities that will support and inform our decision making processes and increase the scale of measurable social, economic and environment impact that we achieve for the communities of Thurrock'*.

Our social, economic and environmental ambitions for Thurrock are therefore more likely to be achieved if we marshal our resources explicitly in the pursuit of the priority outcomes outlined in this social values framework and developed in consultation with our partners from the voluntary and community sector.

### Implementing the framework

For the purpose of testing this new approach to the council, we will apply the framework in the first instance to our commissioning and procurement activities and work with our Joint Strategic Forum to review both the performance and impact that it has achieved by Spring 2015.

The social values framework will be implemented through the commissioning and procurement cycle where it will be applied as follows:

- For each procurement and grant funding exercise, we will identify which of the outcomes in the social values framework are appropriate for inclusion.
- Appropriate outcomes will be identified from the social values framework on the basis of what is relevant and proportionate for each contract.
- This means that our approach to social value is a bespoke approach, tailored for each and every contract.

- Every tendering exercise will include at least one of the outcomes listed in the social values framework.
- Suppliers will be scored on their responses to the question about how they will deliver against these outcomes\*.
- Suppliers will also be scored on their responses to an accompanying question about how this will be measured and verified\*.
- The responses of the winning bidder will be incorporated into the contract and the ensuing contract management and monitoring process\*\*.

\* Where the outcome(s) can be linked to the subject matter of the contract

\*\* Where it is not possible to link the outcome(s) to the subject matter of the contract, the outcome(s) will be included as term(s) of the contract.

We will develop means for the social values framework to:

- Increase the scale of measurable positive impact for the communities of Thurrock through our procurement, development, regeneration and localism activities;
- Complement existing performance management practice;
- Provide a simple health check that the council and partners can use to review either their own or joint progression towards a small number of community outcomes;
- Highlight areas where there are gaps in provision and where additional value can be achieved through co-production and/or service transformation;
- Deliver a more outcomes focused approach.

### **3.0 Our social value principles**

Our social values framework will build on our existing community strategy and corporate priorities and:

- ensure that we have a systematic, consistent and coherent approach to social value across each and every contract that the council lets,
- encompass a broader range of social value considerations in what we do, and
- implement a more outcome-focused approach with clearer links to our broader strategic priorities and overarching organisational objectives.

With a focus on our commissioning and procurement activities in the first instance, we are committed to, and we expect our suppliers to be committed to:

- supporting the local economy, including through any sub-contracting;
- delivering at neighbourhood-level wherever appropriate;
- reducing demand for public services and including appropriate incentives in contracts, such as contract extension opportunities for suppliers who effectively reduce demand;
- supporting the community and voluntary sector through our suppliers and contracts;
- fostering positive relationships between and within different communities (e.g. geographical communities, and communities of interest, such as people in a particular age group or people of a particular faith);
- enforcement in cases where suppliers fail to deliver agreed outcomes;
- working positively with suppliers to deliver the maximum social value;
- paying our suppliers promptly;
- endorsing / promoting suppliers who engage successfully and positively with our social value approach.

## Our Social Value Framework

Theme	Outcomes (What are we trying to achieve)	What does this mean in practice. What are our measures of impact. (These are examples only for consultation and not either a complete list nor a list that has been formally endorsed)
Social  CS1: Create a great place for learning and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong communities and a thriving voluntary sector</li> <li>• Increased participation and social awareness</li> <li>• Supporting initiatives that support early intervention and demand management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of voluntary organisations supported year on year by x</li> <li>• Increasing volunteering by x% year on year (corporate and community)</li> <li>• Contribution of x hours of support to community and voluntary organisations through employer supported volunteering schemes</li> <li>• Deliver x number of services on a localised basis reducing the average miles travelled by/to x</li> <li>• Work with x number of service users to design /deliver the service</li> <li>• X% of social care users supported to live independently</li> <li>• Reduce the number of 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training</li> </ul>
Economic  CS2: Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing number and prosperity of local businesses</li> <li>• Increasing the number of jobs in Thurrock</li> <li>• Increasing inward investment to the borough</li> <li>• Increasing opportunities for local providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay our staff the living wage</li> <li>• Increasing the % of Council spend with Thurrock businesses</li> <li>• Supporting local VCFS through the supply chain by spending x% of total expenditure with voluntary and community sector providers in Thurrock</li> <li>• Support x business start ups per annum</li> <li>• Bring x new business investment into Thurrock</li> <li>• Create x number of apprenticeships (corporate and community)</li> <li>• Support x number of people back to work through targeted activities/initiatives</li> <li>• Secure x amount of investment to, or in kind contributions to x number of community programmes</li> <li>• Support the local economy by spending x% of total expenditure in the</li> </ul>

Theme	Outcomes (What are we trying to achieve)	What does this mean in practice. What are our measures of impact. (These are examples only for consultation and not either a complete list nor a list that has been formally endorsed)
		local supply chain (i.e. within Thurrock) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of businesses ceasing to trade to be lower than national average</li> </ul>
Environmental CS5: Protect and promote our clean and green environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clean and protected physical environment</li> <li>• Mitigation of risks arising from climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce carbon emissions by xxx</li> <li>• Support x number of households to better manage their energy demands through improvements in the fabric of their homes, bringing them out of fuel poverty and contributing to climate change goals</li> <li>• Increase visitors to riverside and green space in Thurrock by x%</li> </ul>
Compassion CS4: Improve health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling and supporting individuals and communities to help themselves and one another</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support x number of service users into work experience/paid work/training</li> <li>• Support x number of service users to engage in volunteering?</li> <li>• Support x number of residential social care users to live independently</li> <li>• Co-ordinate and deliver x number of community befriending schemes e.g. building on the work of community connectors/local area co-ordinators/community builders</li> </ul>
Equality CS3: Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create safer welcoming communities who value diversity and respect cultural heritage</li> <li>• Involve communities in shaping where they live and their quality of life</li> <li>• Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and safeguard the vulnerable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ x number of xxx or groups who traditionally face additional challenges in competing in the labour market</li> <li>• Deliver x number of events to build community cohesion</li> <li>• Deliver X initiatives/campaigns to foster good relations in Thurrock</li> </ul>