

Creating Social Value Policy: Summary April 2016 V2.0

Introduction:

What is social value?

There are many definitions of social value, and for that reason Bolton at Home has defined what social value means to us. We have chosen to adopt two definitions in order to broadly explain what social value is, when delivered directly by Bolton at Home, and in partnership with others, as well as social value delivered through the procurement of goods, services and works.

Social value is defined by the Chartered Institute of Housing as:

“The wider non-financial impacts of programmes, organisations and projects, especially on the wellbeing of individuals and communities and of the environment.” (1)

Bolton at Home recognises, and is ensuring that we deliver social value:

- Directly, in the services that we provide for our customers, and in the communities that we work with;
- Through the procurement and commissioning of goods, works and services and
- In partnership with other organisations, enterprises and individual people.

Our Policy:

Policy statement- why is social value important to Bolton at Home?

Bolton at Home’s vision is to help support the creation and maintenance of **homes and neighbourhoods we can all be proud of**. This goes beyond the provision of good quality housing, something that it goes without saying, as a social landlord, we are aiming to achieve. Bolton at Home is a registered provider of 18,000 affordable homes, with charitable status, and is a socially responsible business. We have delivered regeneration within Bolton communities, investing in the long term development of our communities, since our infancy. We have long understood that successful community regeneration depends on more than developing and managing homes and we already have a track record of delivering a wide range of activities that go beyond the traditional landlord role.


Social value extends to all services that we provide, in order to support the delivery of our vision. Our services aim to support the economic and social wellbeing of our customers as well as ensuring the environmental wellbeing of each area across Bolton, and its surrounding areas.

Our social value policy objectives:

Our Social Value policy will reinforce and support the Bolton Vision (2007- 2017), by supporting the economic prospects of Bolton residents, supporting the prosperity of Bolton, and helping support community development (10). Our policy also supports and contributes to the *Greater Manchester Strategy*, working with our contractors, suppliers and partners “to create a city region where every resident, neighbourhood and every borough can contribute to and benefit from our shared sustainable future” (2)

Our social value policy objectives are:

- Ensure the money we spend delivers wider social, environmental and economic benefits for our customers and communities, in order to ensure urban and rural regeneration (this includes supporting the delivery of our Environmental Strategy);
- Help our organisation and our partners, contractors and suppliers deliver corporate responsibility through strategic, responsible, and ethical practices;
- Support the provision of, and demonstrate the value of, initiatives and projects that aim to deliver social value for our customers and communities;

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- Focus our social value budget on our social value core priorities including, the delivery of our 'Journey into Work Strategy' which sets out how Bolton at Home supports our customers into work, and seeks opportunities to reduce in work and out of work poverty;
 - Seek commitment to payment of the Greater Manchester Living Wage by our organisation and our contractors and suppliers, in order to reduce "in work poverty" and ensure a sustainable income for our customers (see further information pp.30);
 - Ensure targeted local recruitment and training by our organisation and amongst our partners, contractors and suppliers, in order to tackle worklessness;
 - Support key organisational policies, that ensure the delivery of social value, including our Journey into Work Strategy, our Environmental Sustainability Policy and our responsible procurement Strategy;

Our social value core priorities:

In order to ensure that our work is both focused and achievable, our social value policy focuses on the following core priorities;

- promote employment and economic sustainability – tackle unemployment and facilitate the development of skills
- raise the living standards of local residents – working towards living wage, maximising employee access to entitlements such as childcare and encourage suppliers to source labour from within Bolton and its surrounding areas
- promote participation and citizen engagement – encourage resident participation and promote active citizenship
- build the capacity and sustainability of the VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) sector – practical support for local voluntary and community groups
- promote equity and fairness – target effort towards those in the greatest need or facing the greatest disadvantage and tackle deprivation across the borough and
- promote environmental sustainability – reduce wastage, limit energy consumption and procure materials from sustainable sources.

These core priorities are the same as the AGMA social value objectives as defined within the GMCA Social Value Strategy from November 2014, but have been updated to reflect the locality which we work (2). For a copy of the AGMA Greater Manchester Strategy, please [click here](#).

Legislation and government policy

Our Social Value Policy considers where Bolton at Home is bound and enabled by the following legislation to consider Social Value in its procurement of goods, services and works and the commissioning of services:

- Social Value Act (Public Services) 2015
- Public Contracts Regulation 2015
- National Living Wage Regulation 2016
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Small Business Enterprise & Employment Act 2015

References:

1. Chartered Institute of Housing (2015) *New approaches to delivering social value* [online] <http://www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/New%20approaches%20to%20social%20value.pdf> [Accessed 24 November 15];
2. AGMA (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities) and GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) (2013) *Stronger Together: Greater Manchester Strategy* [Online] <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/downloads/file/8/stronger-together-greater-manchester-strategy> [Accessed 22 December 15]