

LHC

PROCUREMENT GROUP



Social Value Strategy 2024-2027



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PURPOSE AND VISION

LHC's Social Value Strategy places social value as a central element of our overall Vision:

'Improving lives and places through quality procurement solutions'

LHC Procurement Group and its regional businesses are not for profit providers of high-quality procurement solutions. This Social Value Strategy complements our procurement solutions by supporting the public sector to maximise public benefit from their procurement activity.

LHC operates throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and our approach to social value has always been flexible to meet the needs and aspirations of our partners and communities we support. We

achieve this through regionally based teams who are supported by a central centre of excellence.

The 2012 Social Value Act England, Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act 2015 and Scotland's sustainable development goals, all set the expectation that all public sector organisations and their suppliers look beyond the financial cost of a contract to consider how the services they procure, can improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area. The 2023 Procurement Act further establishes public benefit and community focus as key elements of ensuring public sector procurement helps support local communities and we will provide our customers with frameworks, advice, guidance, and support to achieve this.



APPROACH

To maximise the impact of our social value strategy we will collaborate with our partners, engaging them on both the process and the outcomes so we work together and share the vision for delivering social value into communities.

LHC will seek to increase our role in guiding and influencing, for example, LHC will increase funding in local communities to deliver better outcomes for our partners and their communities.

We will provide frameworks and services that guide and advise partners and suppliers on delivering social value to 'improve lives and places'.

One of our social value strengths is the diversity of our supply chain and we will work with smaller local suppliers, guiding them through the social value procurement processes, so that they understand the scale and level of impact is proportionate and achievable. Companies appointed to our frameworks who require guidance on what is required to shape and deliver social value will be supported through the process.

Our approach is to produce a 'procurement added value' to buying solutions and we will achieve that through sharing joint visions and delivery methods. A key requirement of LHC's social value strategy will be to achieve the buy-in from our partners.

OUR SOCIAL VALUE PRIORITIES

Through partner and staff engagement we have identified three social value priority areas that, as a provider of construction frameworks in the public sector, LHC are well placed to support and deliver.

Social mobility **Individual Wellbeing** **Planet & Environment**

Enabling social mobility:

We believe in a fair and equal society where individuals, from all backgrounds, have equal opportunities to succeed. Our focus on employment and skills will result in greater opportunities for the communities we and our partners support and will strengthen social cohesion by reducing disparities and fostering a sense of belonging.

Ultimately, prioritising social mobility and inclusion not only benefits individuals by empowering them to reach their full potential but also enriches the fabric of British society as a whole, creating a more just and prosperous nation.

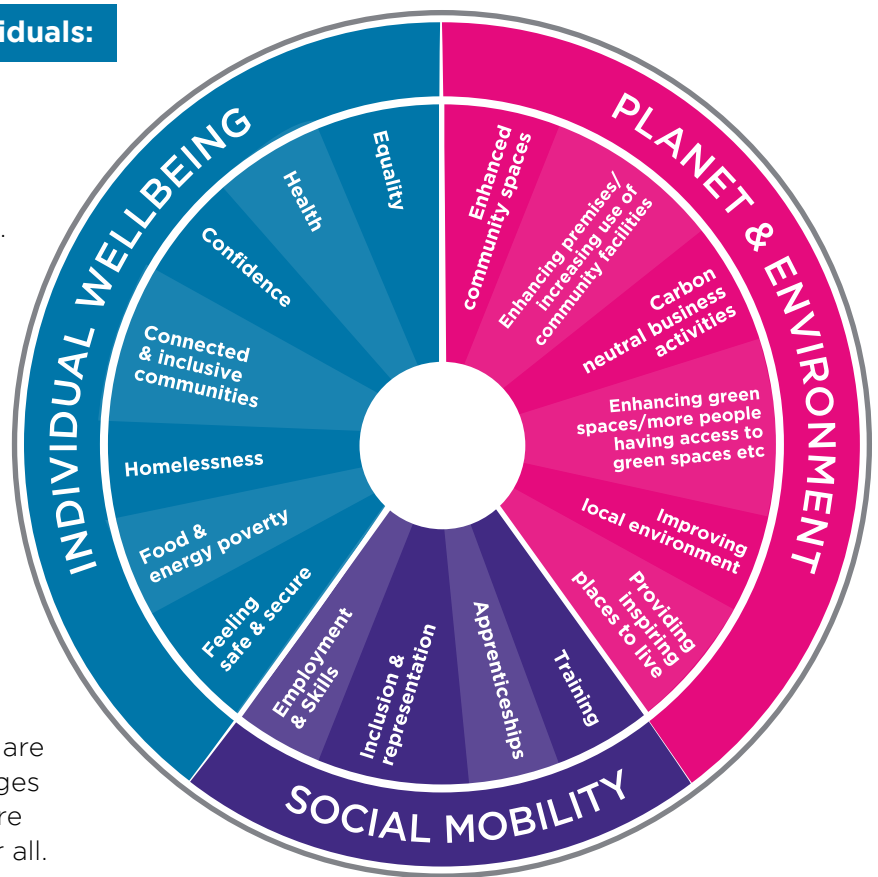
Focus on the wellbeing of individuals:

When individuals are mentally and physically healthy, they are more able to contribute positively, driving the local economy and delivering better connected and inclusive communities.

Moreover, prioritising wellbeing fosters a compassionate and supportive society, where individuals feel valued and supported in times of need.

Promoting wellbeing helps to alleviate the burden on healthcare and social services, leading to more efficient resource allocation and improved outcomes.

By placing a premium on individual wellbeing, we help enable more resilient and happy people who are better equipped to tackle the challenges of the modern world, leading to a more flourishing and sustainable society for all.



The planet and environment in which they depend and live:

A healthy environment directly impacts the quality of life for everyone, providing clean air, water, and green spaces for recreation and social engagement. In addition, a thriving environment can be designed to support biodiversity, which is essential for ecosystem stability and resilience against environmental threats such as climate change and natural disasters.

A clean and sustainable environment attracts investment and businesses, fostering economic growth and prosperity within local communities. Thus, prioritising the health of the planet and local environment is essential for ensuring the well-being, resilience, and prosperity of local communities now and for future generations.

IMPACT AREAS

Our social value priorities will be delivered through three key 'impact' areas. By leveraging the collective power of these three impact areas, we will deliver a meaningful and lasting impact for communities and the people who live within them.

Impact Area 1: Procurement with Added Value

Social Value Objective

Procurement frameworks which our partners use to deliver increased added value by clearly defining the social value to be delivered, and the system for measuring and monitoring it.

Our procurement frameworks will retain their current level of excellence in providing the highest quality solutions, LHC will further maximise the positive impact of our 'not-for-profit' status by influencing & measuring how projects delivered through our frameworks enhance the benefits we provide for our communities.

Our frameworks will become further differentiated by an increased focus on social value aligned to the overall vision of 'Improving Lives and Places'.

We will achieve this by

Delivery of social value through our procurement solutions

- Placing a commitment to 'Improving Lives and Places' as the central element of the framework's approach to social value, we will ensure each framework has social value objectives that align with the nature of the framework and partner priorities.
- Ensuring the process for measuring social value will be shared in our procurement documentation and will be transparent to all suppliers and partners, and all measures we include will be designed to help guide and shape, with the intention to drive creativity and innovation.
- All appointed companies will be supported to deliver and report the social value impact of each project delivered through our frameworks, this could be in addition to the social value deliverables agreed with the partner.
- Encouraging and enabling our partners to include clear social value outcomes to be delivered for each call off contract.
- LHC will measure the overall social value performance of each framework.

Support for Appointed Companies

- We will train our staff on the principles of social value and best practice in the field so we can support both partners and suppliers deliver against this strategy.
- LHC will provide support and assistance via direct engagement with our own experts, events, case studies and other targeted approaches to help potential and appointed suppliers understand how they can deliver, and evidence the delivery of their own social value activities.
- We will facilitate and encourage the sharing of ideas and innovation between LHC and all our partners.

Impact Area 2: Community Impact

Social Value Objective

As a recognised 'not for profit' organisation delivering procurement solutions with a high degree of societal impact, community impact is an integral part of working with LHC.

We will regularly measure and report the outcomes that are realised through our Community Benefit Funding.

Working with our partners we will identify the areas of greatest need and look to deliver a social value legacy through an increased collaboration with local charities and community organisations.

We will look to increase our social value impact in our communities each year.



We will achieve this by

- Increasing the funding available via LHC's community impact initiatives, this will be delivered against our partners and communities' priorities. Supported, and shaped by the regional committees, measured by LHC, and overseen by LHC Board.
- Working with our partners to deliver greater levels of community impact by using LHC's community benefit funds for social value projects.
- LHC will seek to work collaboratively with our framework appointed companies and partners to deliver community projects to maximise all available funding.

Impact Area 3: Living our Values

Social Value Objective

LHC is an organisation which lives its values by investing in our people and encouraging them to engage in adding value to their local communities.

LHC will live our values through engaging our employees, allowing them to shape and deliver social value into the communities where they live or work on causes that are close to their heart.

'Improving lives and places' will be the driver of our employee engagement on social value, primarily (though not exclusively) through volunteering activity.



We will achieve this by

- All employees being allocated 1.5 days paid volunteering per year.
- We will support and enable employees to use their volunteering days through the provision of training, events and sharing experiences.
- Team volunteering days will be organised by department to support partner led and community benefit funded projects.

MEASURING IMPACT

LHC recognises that to deliver real social value, understanding the impact for each of our social value areas is key to ensuring we prioritise and support the communities in ways that are needed most.

To do this, we will establish social value measuring and reporting systems, working with employees and partners to evidence and analyse our individual and collective social value impact.

SOCIAL VALUE PARTNERSHIP

We will partner with HACT, to deliver our social value strategy. Drawing on their expertise and experience in the sector to guide and support us as we innovate and transform social value in the public procurement sector.



ANNUAL REVIEW

We will review our social value strategy annually, informed by the performance and progress made in the previous year.

This is to ensure our social value strategy stays relevant, deliverable and challenging.

A NOTE FROM OUR PARTNER, HACT

“This strategy, embedded in LHC’s overall vision of “Improving lives and places through quality procurement solutions,” positions social value as a central element and showcases LHC’s commitment to enhancing added value and maximising community benefit from procurement activities.

We are proud of our work with LHC on its social value strategy, which stands out as an example of HACT’s commitment to maximising positive social value impact on communities through working with other organisations.”

Michael McLaughlin, Head of Social Value

Extract from HACT 2023 Round-Up Report.



