

2025

# LONDON BOROUGH OF BARKING AND DAGENHAM SOCIAL VALUE TOOLKIT

HOW CONTRACTORS CAN HELP THE COUNCIL DELIVER  
WIDER COMMUNITY BENEFITS THAT MEET LOCAL  
PRIORITIES

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## INTRODUCTION

This document sets out how Barking and Dagenham Council is working to use its power as a major procurer of goods and services to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits in the borough.

We want to ensure we are doing all we can to deliver for residents in the context of limited resources. That means seeking to work with organisations who share our values and commitment to the borough, and asking those that want to contract with the council to deliver in a way that creates additional benefits for our residents and communities.

This ‘Social Value’ must be delivered over and above any benefits that arise from the goods and services being procured – and delivered in a way that is cost-neutral to the Council. Put simply, Social Value is about asking whether, if we are spending £1 on the delivery of goods and services, that same £1 can be used to produce a wider benefit to the community.

This policy also fulfils the legal obligation on all public bodies to consider Social Value under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012<sup>1</sup>, which requires:

- a) That authorities must consider how procurement might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local area; and
- b) how it might act with a view to securing that improvement.

We expect all potential contractors seeking to provide goods or services worth more than £100,000 to the Council to set out convincing Social Value proposals as part of their bid – with a focus on supporting progress against the twenty-year Borough Manifesto goals and targets originally set in 2017.

This toolkit aims to support bidders to understand how they can develop effective proposals to deliver wider community benefits as part of their activity in the borough. It provides an overview of:

- The Council’s goals and priorities for Social Value.
- How Social Value is assessed.
- The tools available to help potential contractors to develop a meaningful Social Value offer.
- Contact details for local partners that can support delivery on Social Value commitments

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<sup>1</sup> The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into force on 31 January 2013 and applies to public services contracts and framework agreements relating to services to which the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and revised Public Contracts Regulations 2015 apply.

## SECTION I. DELIVERING SOCIAL VALUE IN LBBD

### GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The starting point for Barking and Dagenham's approach to securing additional Social Value when procuring goods and services is the Borough Manifesto.<sup>2</sup> The manifesto was the product of consultation with nearly 3,000 residents. Through this process, local people helped set a vision to ensure 'no one is left behind' over the next 20 years, with a set of targets and metrics to track progress.



These targets provide the context for the council's Social Value Framework, which is grouped around three priority themes. These themes are set out in the table below, along with the vision and activities that organisations can do to achieve the associated goals.

We encourage all organisations working or seeking to work in the borough to help us to achieve these goals. Those seeking major contracts to deliver goods, services and works for the council will be partly assessed on their proposals to deliver wider community benefits in line with these priorities – in addition to an assessment of the cost and quality of their bid. We are keen to work with suppliers that demonstrate a commitment to paying and promoting the [London Living Wage](#), particularly for staff working on contracts to deliver council services, although this should not be in addition to any Social Value commitments.

<sup>2</sup> See: [Borough Manifesto | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](#)

## LBB'D'S SOCIAL VALUE FRAMEWORK

The framework below sets out the Council's priorities and some of the activities that we would like to see from contractors when developing their Social Value proposals. This list is not exhaustive, and bidders are welcome to come up with innovative ideas about how to deliver Social Value in line with borough goals and priorities.

In addition to the table below, all contractors are expected to adhere to the highest possible ethical standards in employment and are absolutely committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking within their own activities and through their supply chain. For full guidance, read the Council's Modern Slavery Statement by clicking the link [here](#).

<b>Investment in Local People</b>	
Work with the Council to meet Borough Manifesto goals to tackle low pay, reduce unemployment and increase access to education and training for borough residents. As well as to support improvements in the capacity of civil society, resident engagement, and levels of volunteering in the borough, whilst looking to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of residents by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Providing sustainable (26 weeks+) employment opportunities for LBB'D residents.</li><li>- Providing quality apprenticeships with clear wage and employment gains for LBB'D residents – with a focus wherever possible on apprenticeships at or progressing to Level 3 and above.</li><li>- Providing work experience and careers support for LBB'D residents.</li><li>- Providing work-related learning opportunities for the borough's schools, such as work experience, insight visits, careers talks, mock interview days and enterprise advisers.</li><li>- Providing opportunities for disadvantaged groups – including young people, rehabilitating young offenders, care experienced residents, and those with mental or physical health conditions and learning difficulties.</li><li>- Advertising all local employment and apprenticeship vacancies through the council's job brokerage services, and working with the existing local education and training system to deliver training and careers activities wherever possible.</li><li>- Building the capacity of local community groups and activities, such as through volunteering, mentoring and providing space and facilities.</li><li>- Supporting initiatives to tackle obesity, anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse, homelessness, and other challenges that affect the independence and resilience of residents.</li></ul>

<b>Investment in Local Economy</b>	
Work with the Council to meet Borough Manifesto goals to support job creation and business growth by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buying goods and services from organisations based in Barking and Dagenham wherever possible – supporting our goal for at least 25% of council goods and services to be sourced from local suppliers.</li> <li>- Building the capacity of local suppliers to access procurement opportunities, such as through mentoring and meet the buyer events.</li> <li>- 'Buying social' where possible, by sub-contracting with organisations that share our values and have a social purpose, such as those from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	
Work with the Council to meet Borough Manifesto goals to create a clean, green and sustainable borough, recycling more and reducing waste by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing the amount of waste and single-use plastic and seeking opportunities to recycle wherever possible.</li> <li>- Supporting LBBD's target to reduce carbon emissions by taking concrete steps to minimise energy consumption and consider the environmental performance of the wider supply chain.</li> <li>- Supporting initiatives to improve the local environment such as through local growing schemes and measures to address air pollution and fly-tipping.</li> </ul>

## SECTION II. ASSESSING SOCIAL VALUE IN LBBD

This section provides guidance for potential contractors about the threshold at which Social Value applies, the weighting it is given as part of the total contract evaluation, where it comes in the tender process, and how different proposals will be assessed.

### WHO IS REQUIRED TO DELIVER SOCIAL VALUE?

Bidders on all LBBD contracts over £100,000 for goods, services and works are required to provide convincing Social Value offers in line with LBBD's stated goals and priorities, as set out in the Social Value Framework above.

However, we welcome all contractors to make Social Value proposals, and reserve the right to apply Social Value obligations on a discretionary basis on contracts below £100,000.

### HOW IS SOCIAL VALUE ASSESSED?

Social Value commitments are assessed and scored as part of the tender evaluation process, alongside evidence of quality and value for money (cost).

Potential contractors are asked to complete and submit a Delivery Plan setting out their commitments under the themes set out in LBBD's Social Value Framework, and an accompanying Method Statement explaining how these will be delivered.

- The Delivery Plan should set out clear, measurable outputs that will be delivered through the contract, the impact of these measures and including timescales for delivery where possible.
- The Method Statement should outline how the commitments will be delivered, include information about who will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the obligations and, where relevant, how the contractor will ensure compliance in their wider supply chain.

Social Value in Barking and Dagenham will be weighted at **a minimum of 10%** of the overall assessment criteria, and up to **a maximum of 20%**.<sup>3</sup> This is in line with central government recommendations.<sup>4</sup>

Within this weighting, both the quality of the Method Statement and the commitments (outputs) set out in the Delivery Plan will be considered when assessing the Social Value

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<sup>3</sup> Weighting refers to the percentage that Social Value is given within the procurement criteria and decisions, relative to the cost and quality commitments in the bid.

<sup>4</sup> HM Government: *Social Value in Government Procurement* (2019), linked [here](#)

proposals. These percentage splits/weightings may vary within the total social value weighting for the Method Statement and for the Delivery Plan. This split will be highlighted in the tender.

It is important that bidders are confident of their ability to deliver their Social Value commitments as, once agreed, they will form part of the contractual obligations and will be monitored alongside other key performance indicators.

All Social Value commitments must be delivered in a way that is cost neutral to the Council.

### HOW WILL DIFFERENT PROPOSALS BE EVALUATED?

We recognise that different contracts will lend themselves to different priorities. We do not necessarily expect potential contractors to commit to deliver outcomes for all the priorities expressed in the Social Value Framework above.

On some contracts, commissioners will set out priorities for Social Value as part of the tender process.

Bids will be evaluated on the basis of the extent to which they are delivering additional community benefits that would not otherwise have been achieved, the clarity and ambitiousness of the commitments, and extent to which the Method Statement sets out a convincing plan for how outputs will be delivered.

We may give priority to bids that make commitments under the themes of 'investment in local people' and 'investment in the local economy' although this will be made clear in the tender documentation. In particular, we may score Social Value offers more highly where they:

- Provide quality employment, apprenticeships, and other training and work experience opportunities for LBBG residents<sup>5</sup> – with additional consideration given to proposals that provide opportunities for groups facing disadvantage in the labour market<sup>6</sup>;

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<sup>5</sup> Wherever possible we would like to encourage sustainable employment opportunities lasting at least 26 weeks and apprenticeships for new entrants that are provided at, or progressing to, Level 3 and above, with evidence of clear wage and employment gains upon completion.

<sup>6</sup> Priorities include: young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET); unemployed care experienced residents and/or ex-offenders; residents who are long-term unemployed; and those with physical or mental health conditions and/or learning difficulties.

- Commit to procuring a meaningful proportion of goods and services relating to the contract from local suppliers – supporting the council to meet its target to procure 25% of all goods and services locally.

### **Securing community benefits in construction**

The council's wholly-owned regeneration and development company Be First plays a key role in driving greater community benefits in the construction sector through its house-building and regeneration programme.

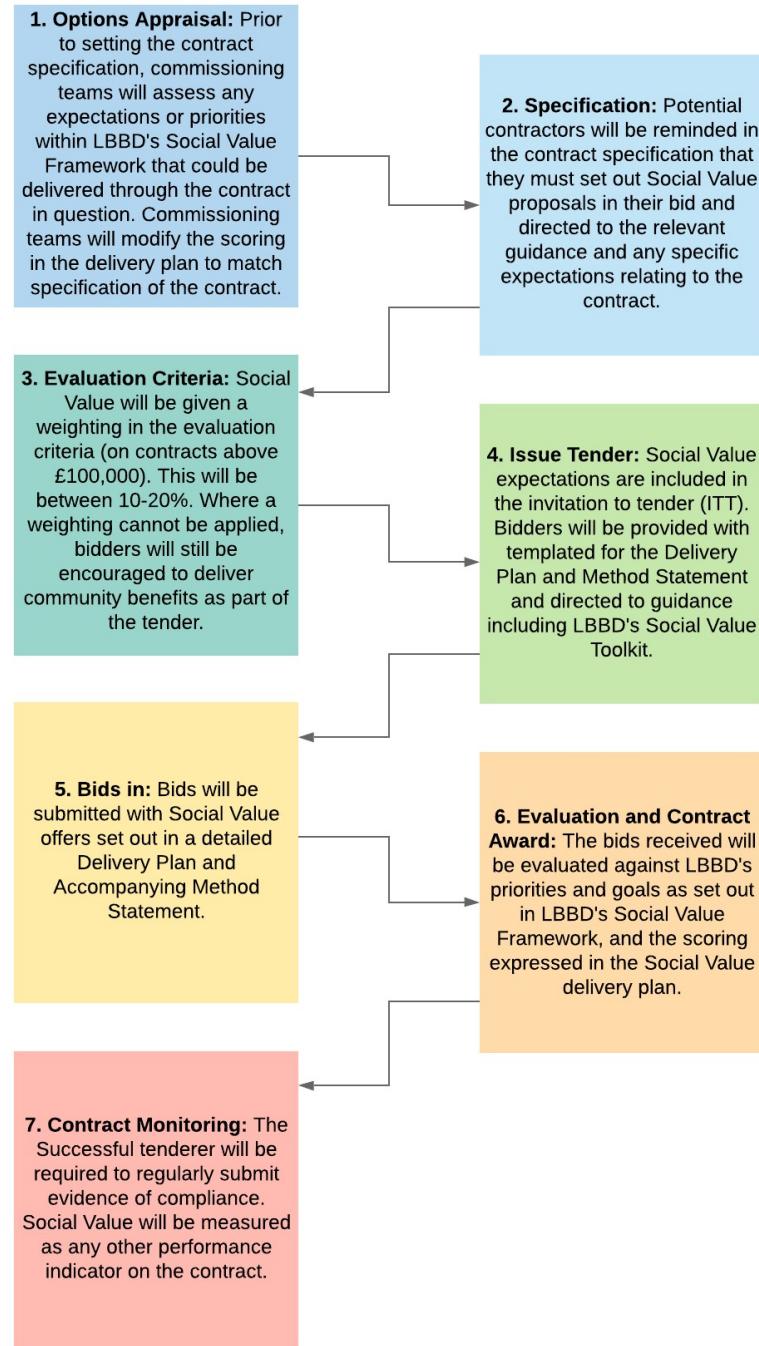
In June 2019 Be First and the council signed the Unite Construction Charter, which seeks to tackle undercutting and ensure decent pay and conditions in construction. Be First sets ambitious targets for contractors based on these commitments and wider established good practice to tackle skills and employment gaps in the sector and build the capacity of the local supply chain.

These targets are set as minimum requirements for all contractors and monitored as part of their key performance indicators. They include requirements to:

- Work to ensure that all operatives on Be First sites are directly employed on a PAYE basis under a contract of employment and paid no less than the London Living Wage;
- Ensure a minimum 25% of the total jobs (FTE) created are filled by LBBD residents – with all vacancies advertised through the council's job brokerage services;
- Provide at least one training opportunity for every 10 construction workers – at least half of which (or 5% of the FTE workforce) must be apprenticeships leading to a full recognised qualification;
- Provide 10 weeks of work experience for every 6 months of the development – with each placement lasting at least 2 weeks;
- Provide at least one educational workshop / visit per educational term for the duration of the construction phase to support local schools and careers services.
- Source at least 25% of the value of all goods and services required for the development from organisations based in borough and participate in at least two events in each year of the development to promote opportunities to local suppliers and build their capacity.

These targets are also promoted across the wider construction sector operating in the borough through Section 106 employment, skills and suppliers plans.

## WHERE DOES SOCIAL VALUE COME IN THE TENDER PROCESS?



## SECTION III. USEFUL RESOURCES

This section provides information about further tools, guidance and contacts that may be helpful in supporting potential contractors to develop meaningful Social Value proposals and ensure that bids stand the best chance of getting maximum marks in this area.

### DO'S AND DON'TS WHEN SUBMITTING AN OFFER

#### **1) Don't offer anything that is required in the core contract:**

Services or actions that the bidder is required to provide as part of the core contract requirements cannot also be counted as Social Value. For example: if the contract is about supporting people back to work, bidders cannot claim Social Value for taking people out of unemployment, as that is part of the requirements of the core contract.

#### **2) Do provide good evidence of how you will deliver Social Value:**

When submitting Social Value offers, make sure you take the time to fill in the Delivery Plan and Method Statement to the best of your ability. We are looking for bids that are deliverable as well as ambitious – a weak method statement will reduce the coherence of the offer and impact the overall score awarded to Social Value.

#### **3) Don't double count:**

Each Social Value outcome may be claimed only once. For example: if a reduction in carbon emissions is proposed through a flexible working initiative, bidders may not claim the same reduction in emissions achieved via a different initiative.

#### **4) Do make sure you only include committed local spend in your supply chain:**

When estimating local spend, bidders must only include the projection of spend that occurs as a result of the contract and can be influenced by their own spending decisions.

## TARGETING YOUR COMMITMENTS

The best Social Value proposals are targeted at local issues with a clear sense of how they will be delivered in partnership with organisations and resources on the ground. A list of useful contact details to help contractors deliver on their commitments is provided at the end of this Toolkit. It may also be helpful for bidders to engage with some of the following organisations and resources while they are developing their proposals.

### **LBBB Borough Data Explorer**

Barking and Dagenham Council have developed a Data Explorer which brings together data for all the indicators that either; contribute to our Borough Manifesto<sup>7</sup> or the Social Progress Index<sup>8</sup>. This tool allows the user to compare LBBB's performance to the rest of London and, where data is available, to visualise ward-by-ward level data.

This is a valuable tool to help produce locally targeted schemes and project. It can be used to understand the issues currently faced in the borough, and to enable contractors to think about where and how they target their interventions to meet the most pressing concerns in different parts of the borough.

Access the Borough Data Explorer by clicking [here](#), please note the data is updated annually at the start of each financial year.

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<sup>7</sup> Borough Manifesto, URL: [Borough Manifesto | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> Barking and Dagenham 2018 Social Progress Index, URL: [Social progress index | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](#)

## HOW TO CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **Social Value Inbox**

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham hope that all the information needed to support our Social Value priorities is provided for potential suppliers in this Social Value Toolkit. However, if you have a specific question relating to Social Value, please contact the email address below:

[socialvalue@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:socialvalue@lbbd.gov.uk)

Please note we will not be able to provide you with additional information through the inbox during live procurements. If you have a question that will allow you to respond in more detail to the Social Value section in the ITT specification, you should contact LBBD through the eportal: [Tendering | LBBD](#)

Barking and Dagenham has formed a Social Value Advisory Panel, that can help facilitate and offer advice on any Social Value commitments made by the supplier. Working with the Commissioner/Contract Manager of the product or service, the Panel's aim is to provide a voice of the communities that they represent. The panel is made up of groups including front-line council staff, voluntary sector organisations, business support organization and community led networks who are all based within the borough. The aim of the panel is to ensure the needs and priorities of the communities, which can often change, are being considered allowing suppliers the opportunity to target a particular social value commitment to a particular identified need. For instance, if a supplier has committed to delivering a certain number of work placements, the panel could provide insight into where those work placements could best be sought to deliver the most impact. The panel is also a route to take views from the LBBD residents and to help guide the successful supplier should they need contacts or connections to aid the supplier in delivering their Social Value commitments.

Access to the Social Value Advisory Panel will be offered to suppliers at the point of being awarded the contract once the Delivery Plan and Method Statement has been agreed. This relationship will be connected through the Commissioner/Contract manager.

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Recruit an employee or apprentice from Barking and Dagenham</b>	All contractors are asked to advertise local job and apprenticeship opportunities with the council's job brokerage service, which offers a free recruitment and selection service for organisations seeking to recruit locally.	Email: <a href="mailto:vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk">vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Get support with apprenticeship training costs</b>	The government offers up to 95% of funding to cover the costs of training apprentices. LBBB also runs a scheme to transfer the Council's unspent Apprenticeship Levy allowance to organisations that offer high quality opportunities to local residents – covering 100% of their training costs.	See: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/take-on-an-apprentice/get-funding">https://www.gov.uk/take-on-an-apprentice/get-funding</a> Telephone: 0800 015 0600 You can also email <a href="mailto:businessforum@lbbd.gov.uk">businessforum@lbbd.gov.uk</a> for information about how to apply to the Council's levy transfer scheme.
<b>Offer work experience and other careers support</b>	The council's job brokerage service can help you to organise work experience for residents.	Email: <a href="mailto:vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk">vacancies@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Support for schools – work experience</b>	<b>Inspire</b> is a charity commitment to empowering young people across LBBB. Their vision is to ensure that every young person has access to the opportunities and inspiration they need to realise their potential. Inspire work with schools to offer work experience placements.  <b>The Business Education Partnership (BEP Group)</b> , is a registered charity specialising in supporting young people through Education and Work	Email: <a href="mailto:info@inspire-ebp.org.uk">info@inspire-ebp.org.uk</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:placements@bepgroup.net">placements@bepgroup.net</a>

	Experience. BEP organise work experience for young people in Year 10, 11, sixth form or college (14 – 18 year olds).	
<b>Support for primary and secondary schools – careers activities</b>	Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership (BDSIP) is a not-for-profit company, part owned by the borough schools and the council. Through it you can connect with schools to support a range of activities such as primary and secondary school careers events or offer work insights through shadowing or mentoring.	Email: <a href="http://www.bdsip.co.uk">www.bdsip.co.uk</a>  Twitter updates @BDSIPEd
<b>Use local suppliers</b>	The council's Business Forum has a directory of local businesses. Get in touch for help finding local suppliers that meet your needs.  The Business Forum can also help you publicise opportunities for local suppliers through its quarterly newsletter and events.	Email: <a href="mailto:businessforum@lbbd.gov.uk">businessforum@lbbd.gov.uk</a>  Telephone: 020 8227 5094
<b>Identify local voluntary, community and social projects and organisations</b>	Both Barking & Dagenham Giving and the BD_Collective collaborate with a range of partners to make it easy for organisations to identify and support local social organisations. Get in touch for help and ideas on how to target and deliver your obligations.	To get in touch with B&D Giving, email: <a href="mailto:Geraud@bdgiving.org.uk">Geraud@bdgiving.org.uk</a> or visit the B&D Giving portal at: <a href="http://www.bdgiving.org.uk">www.bdgiving.org.uk</a>  To get in touch with the BD_Collective, at: <a href="mailto:hello@bdcollective.co.uk">hello@bdcollective.co.uk</a>  or visit the BD_Collective website at: <a href="https://bdcollective.co.uk/">https://bdcollective.co.uk/</a>

<b>Volunteer in LBB</b>	<p>Barking and Dagenham's Volunteer and Community Solutions teams co-ordinate council volunteering opportunities in the borough. The BDCollective works collaboratively with the Council to coordinate volunteering across the social sector of the Borough using a shared volunteering platform called Better Impact.</p>	<p>To volunteer with the council, contact either Chidi Wilson at: <a href="mailto:chidi.wilson@lbbd.gov.uk">chidi.wilson@lbbd.gov.uk</a></p> <p>For wider volunteering opportunities in the borough contact the BDCollective or B&amp;D Giving, as above.</p>
<b>Support initiatives to tackle Domestic Abuse</b>	<p>Dagenham's Domestic Violence Commission was set up to identify how to reduce high levels of domestic abuse in the borough and can advise on initiatives in this area, as well as how to effectively support and advise your own staff in this regard.</p>	<p>Email: <a href="mailto:domesticabusecommission@lbbd.gov.uk">domesticabusecommission@lbbd.gov.uk</a></p>