

## **COMMUNITY BENEFIT GUIDANCE FOR PROCUREMENT TEAMS AND CONTRACT MANAGERS**

Community benefits and social value are a key component in maximising social, economic and environmental benefits through or as a direct result of awarding contracts.

The aim of this guidance is to provide suggestions and it is for institutions to tailor for their own institution and how this relates to them. There are not definitive definitions.

These should be value-added elements **specific and proportionate** to your contract.

### **What does 'community' mean?**

- This could be on a geographical location of the institution
- This could be a town/city/region wide location (this could be related to the institution or the supplier)
- This could be at a nation/UK/international level or HE/FE sector wide level
- This could mean in collaboration with other institutions within the locality or other public bodies or stakeholders

### **Why is 'community benefit' important to an institution?**

- Often an institution is a main employer in their region/community
- Often an institution can be a major purchaser in their region/community
- Often an institution can encourage community benefits through the suppliers they use
- There may be a statutory requirement for institutions to report on their community value e.g. Scotland's sustainable procurement obligations and annual reporting
- Student's value community benefits – could attract more students to an institution
- Support to the third sector such as mental health support organisations, social enterprises within the community and which could in turn support staff and students

### **What could 'community benefit' look like for a supplier?**

- This could mean employing apprenticeships
- This could mean employing under-represented groups
- This could mean offering work experience opportunities through schools/employability partners
- This could mean providing resources to a specific community group/charity
- This could mean prioritising SME's, supported businesses, third and voluntary sectors enterprise/innovation hubs etc.
- This could mean prioritising 'local' suppliers
- This could mean supporting educational support initiatives
- This could mean supporting environmental/sustainability initiatives
- This could mean support equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives
- Provide a levy/grant to support employees such as travel passes, equipment, training etc.
- This could mean providing internship opportunities



### **List of resources/tips/hacks**

- Build list of local stakeholders externally
- Establish network internally for student engagement in suitable curriculum areas

### **Good examples of initiatives**

- Rewilding in local communities
- Volunteer opportunities such as beach cleans (added value as opportunities for staff/students to get involved)
- Engaging with employability partners to deliver career awareness sessions for disadvantaged groups including refugees.

### **Relevant Legislation/Regulation**

- [Scotland Procurement Reform Act 2014](#)
- [England Public Services \(Social Value\) Act 2013](#)
- [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#)

**This document has been produced by the [EAUC & HEPA Responsible Procurement Group – Social Responsibility Sub-Group](#)**

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