

Scrutiny Overview and Governance Committee – Social Value Working Group

Initiation Document

Working Group Name:	Social Value Working Group
Committee:	Scrutiny Overview and Governance Committee
Municipal Year:	2025/26
Chair:	Councillor Ward
Lead Officers:	Shaun Darcy – Director – Finance, Procurement and Assurance Jeremy Richardson – Head of Procurement and Contract Management Matt Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Membership	Councillors Latham and Nawaz
Co-opted Members	Not specified

1. Context

- 1.1. On 9th December 2024, the Scrutiny Overview Committee considered an agenda item on the Walsall Pound and Social Value.
- 1.2. Members noted the definition of Social Value which was defined as the broader societal impact beyond profit, including economic, community, and environmental benefits.
- 1.3. The importance of creating opportunities for care leavers and ex-offenders, encouraging all directorates to adopt social value contracts via a dedicated portal, and embedding weighted social value criteria in pre-tender processes was noted as a priority. In this respect, it was noted that Council already spends over 40% of its supplier budget locally, and there was an aim to increase this through strategic procurement. As such, the Scrutiny Overview Committee agreed to establish a working group to consider the topic of social value and measure its effectiveness.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 Review the Council's current contract framework.
- 2.2 Understand the legislative requirements for social value and corporate social responsibility.
- 2.3 Understand and assess the Council's internal social value initiatives and offer.
- 2.4 Review the Social Value Portal Tool, scoring system and measuring success.
- 2.5 Examine the impact of social value between education systems and employment.
- 2.6 Review potential improvements and how the Council can provide maximum impact.

3. Scope

- 3.1 Investigate barriers that prevent firms from applying for Council Contracts including contract evaluation processes, support mechanisms and what 'proportionality' looks like.
- 3.2 Understand the legislative requirements of social value and corporate social responsibility.
- 3.3 Identify the Council's internal social value offer such as volunteer days, apprenticeships, support for looked after children (LAC) and previously looked after children (PLAC).
- 3.4 Review the Social Value Portal tool, its scoring system and the measurement of social value success.
- 3.5 Examine the relationship between local schools/colleges and business development and identify the golden thread for social value to make a difference.
- 3.6 Examine best practice including examples from previous peer reviews and the Local Government Association.

4 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 The Equality Act 2010 protects children, young people and adults against discrimination, harassment and victimisation in relation to housing, education, clubs, the provision of services (including healthcare) and work.

5 Who else will contribute

- 5.1 In addition to lead officers and members contributions will be required from the following partners and stakeholders:
- Local businesses including SME
 - Suppliers
 - HR
 - Procurement
 - Education Providers
 - Portfolio Holder

6 Timescale and Reporting Schedule

- 6.1 The following dates are based upon the need for the working group to be completed in the same municipal year:
- Terms of Reference – July 2025
 - Terms of Reference to be approved by Overview Scrutiny Committee – September 2025.
 - Draft report to be considered by Working Group – TBC
 - Final report to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee - TBC
- 6.2 A detailed timetable of meetings and activities can be found at Appendix A.

Appendix A Timetable

Date	Activity
July 2025	Issue draft Terms of Reference for consideration and comment
July 2025	Comments on Terms of Reference returned to officers
July 2025	Final Terms of Reference agreed with group members
July/September	Terms of Reference presented to Scrutiny Overview Committee