SOCIAL VALUE POLICY STATEMENT

This policy statement summarises Warwick District Council's approach to 'social value'. It covers:

- What we mean by the term 'social value'
- Priority social value outcomes for Warwick District Council
- The scope of Warwick District Council's approach

What we mean by the term 'social value'

The term 'social value' refers to approaches which maximise the additional benefits that can be created through the delivery, procurement or commissioning of goods and services, above and beyond those directly related to those goods and services.

Social Enterprise UK in their Brief Guide to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 say that focussing on social value means asking the question: "*If £1 is spent on the delivery of services, can that same £1 be used to also produce a wider benefit to the community*"?

Social value is therefore about using the money we have more strategically, to produce a wider benefit than would otherwise have been achieved. However, social value also describes the values and principles which inform our behaviours and approaches, namely:

- We will seek to ensure that the Council's expenditure is utilised in ways that most benefit our local communities.
- We will use 'community sourcing' approaches as a means of regenerating local communities, both socially and economically.
- We recognise that civic enterprise solutions involving communities, the council and business offer a practical and positive alternative.
- We value and intend to grow our relationship with the voluntary and community sector and small businesses.

Priority social value outcomes for Warwick District Council

Our priority social value outcomes relate to two main themes:

1. Supporting the Warwick District economy (this includes maximising the impact of the Warwick District Council £, promoting employment in Warwick District Council and supporting youth employment)

2. Reducing demand (and consequently expenditure) for public services in Warwick District– maximising the impact of our actions on increasing resilience and independence.

The scope of Warwick District Council's approach:

The social value approach encompasses the full commissioning, Procurement and acquisition cycle, service planning and review, decision making and policy development; and includes procurement of goods as well as services. The outcomes we intend to deliver through this approach include:

- Increasing the proportion of services and goods provided locally.
- Greater circulation of the Warwick District Council pounds (£'s) in local supply chains, thereby maximising the 'multiplier effect'.
- Supporting the creation of jobs, skills and training opportunities
- Promotion of opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social enterprises and voluntary and community organisations.
- Value for money – through capturing longer term savings for the council as a whole.
- Better connections across services, with a greater understanding of how services interact to support outcomes and impact on the wider community.
- Savings through reductions in demand across a range of service areas
- Increased community-led activity, resilience and local problem solving

Key features of our approach are:

- Local spend and provision
- Commissioning for social value
- 'Community sourcing' (making better connections between public services and communities, focusing attention on the strengths and capacities of our communities)
- Procuring for social value
- Service diversification
- Improving cross service connections
- Embedding social value in new policy development