

Lancashire LEP Social Value – Lead Martin Hill

Background

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has successfully embedded Social Value within its key infrastructure investment programmes through the adoption of a LEP wide Social Value Framework. The framework utilises the National Themes Outcomes and Measures to embed social value within the procurement, monitoring and evaluation of projects across the LEP's project and programme portfolio including the Growth Deal, City Deal, Boost business support and Rosebud Business Finance programmes.

Social Value Framework

As outlined in the LEP Programme Report of June of this year, the framework utilises indicators drawn from the National Social Value Themes Outcomes and Measures, or TOM's for short, which allows the attribution of financial values for a range of outcomes which are derived from Government Office Green Book unit cost values.

The framework provides target outputs against a number of measures which are informed by the Lancashire Employment and Skills Strategic Framework themes (Future Workforce, Inclusive Workforce and Skilled and Productive Workforce).

Performance

The Growth Deal Social Value Impact

The impact of the adoption of this approach can be seen at programme and project level. The Growth Deal programme generated a total **of £31.1 million** of added social value as at the last reporting period (start to Qtr. 4 2019-20). The table below provides a detailed breakdown of social value delivered across the framework metrics:

Future Workforce

| Metric | To date | Indicative Social Value |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Hours volunteered to support learning and education through curriculum links, careers and STEM activity. | 531 | £84,271.39 |
| Number of work experience placements for 15-18 year olds at Lancashire schools and colleges | 213 | £33,702.99 |
| Number of undergraduate project placements offered to Lancashire's Universities. | 101 | £15,981.23 |
| Number of graduate internships for graduates living in Lancashire | 22 | £20,886.36 |

Inclusive Workforce

| Metric | To date | Indicative Social Value |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of local people (FTE) employed on contract through construction phase activity (limited project level data available) | 335 | £9,633,930.00 |
| Number of work placements or trails offered to unemployed Lancashire residents. | 87 | £51,834.60 |
| Working days committed from business volunteers to mentor NEET ('not in education, employment or training') young people (16-18 year olds). | 43 | £37,811.62 |
| Number of employment opportunities offered to Lancashire residents that are unemployed or at a disadvantage. | 45 | £853,425.00 |

Skilled and Productive Workforce

| Metric | To date | Indicative Social Value |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Number of apprenticeships (16-18 year old and Adults). | 622 | £6,708,145.60 |
| Commitment to workforce planning and investment in training of employees. | 1050 | £271,372.50 |
| Investment in leadership skills | 212 | £1,424,576.40 |

Wider Community Benefits

| Metric | To date | Indicative Social Value |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Community based projects driven by the local communities in which the project is based. | 146 | £16,423.54 |
| Procurement of local Lancashire based supply chain through the contract (limited project level data available) | | £11,911,670.95 |
| Procurement and commissioning of local SMEs and social enterprises / third sector organisations (limited project level data available) | | £2,763,315.95 |

In addition to the above outcomes, Robertson Construction are currently recruiting a total of three Trainee Site Managers to work on projects facilitated by Growth Deal funding.

City Deal Social Value

The adoption of the 'The Central Lancashire Employment and Skills Supplementary Planning Document' (SPD) is embedded within a number of projects and developments across the Central Lancashire footprint. This is evident in the number of projects who have developed an Employment and Skills Plan and are working toward the delivery of social value outcomes during the 'works' phase of the project. These include:

- Preston Western Distributor/Costain
- Goosnargh Development/Seddon
- UCLan Student Centre/Bowmer Kirkland
- UCLan Infrastructure Work/Balfour Beatty
- D'Urton Lane Development - Wilmot Dixon/Trafford Housing Trust
- Altcar Lane/Lovell

Local Procurement

Local procurement commitments are a common theme across all of the employment and skills plans currently in place. These include commitments around local spend as a percentage of subcontract package let, spend with Small to Medium Sized businesses and third sector procurement.

A number of the contractors that are currently live on site have engaged with the Central Lancashire Construction Skills Hub to hold 'Meet the Buyer' events in partnership with Preston's College, Bowmer Kirkland and Seddon. Lovell had pencilled in a 'Meet the Buyer' event for opportunities generated through their site at Altcar Lane but the tightening of Covid-19 restrictions may ultimately impact upon the timings of this event.

Monitoring & Reporting

The onset of the Covid- 19 pandemic has brought with it numerous challenges as many of these projects have been subject to reduced activity to accommodate safe working practices and have furloughed key staff involved in the delivery of employment and skills outputs.

The City Deal Skills and Employment Coordinator will work closely with the contractors nominated Community Relations Manager to identify opportunities with the principle contractor and wider supply chain. The City Deal Skills and Employment Coordinator will provide a link between local schools, colleges, universities and pre-employment providers and the Community Relations Manager to ensure that opportunities within the supply chain are identified prior to commencement on site.

Performance across these projects will be monitored on a half yearly basis throughout the construction phase of the projects. Project performance data will be submitted to the City Deal Project Team and reported to the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board for review annually.

All of the 'live' projects outlined have been subject to delays and disruption due to the impact of the pandemic but despite this there have been some impressive results generated from a number of those projects being delivered by Lovell, Seddon, Bowmer Kirkland and Costain which will be collated ahead of the next report to the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Board scheduled for the 3rd February 2021.

Wider LEP Programme Social Value

As previously outlined, the embedding of social value requirements within the service specifications for Boost has also generated some very positive results. In the first year of adoption (2019), the framework has generated **£511,503.00** of added social value from a total contract value of £1.58 million. Social value will continue to be monitored as the programme moves forward.

In addition to the social value delivered through the Boost programme we are already seeing the wider benefits in terms of the number of signatories signing up to the skills pledge as a direct result of the social value measures adopted on the programme.

This approach will be adopted for the projects selected for the recently announced 'Getting Building Better Fund' for 'shovel ready' projects. The Lancashire LEP has been allocated £34.1m from the GBF for a wide-ranging package of projects that will deliver a much-needed boost to the local economy. The Skills Hub will be working with these projects as the business cases are developed to scope opportunities for social value to be delivered throughout the works and operational phases of the selected projects with key deliverables set out in the project funding agreements.

The combined Social and Economic Value Impact as at 31st March 2020 (2019/20) is **£31.6m** (Growth Deal and Boost programmes), which is an increase of **18%** on the previous years (2018/19 impact = £25.9m). This figure will continue to increase as the other LEP programmes (City Deal, Getting Building Fund etc) commence to report Social and Economic Value Impact.

A review of the Social Value achieved through the LEP programmes and activities will be undertaken, with a commitment from the LEP Board to produce a new Social Charter for the LEP, which will enhance the success that has been achieved to date.