

LEP Social Value – Lead Martin Hill

Background

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership have successfully embedded Social Value within their 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 - 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) including:-

- Creation of apprenticeships/new entrants/graduates/traineeships
- Recruitment through Jobcentre plus and other local employment vehicles.
- Work trials and interview guarantees
- Vocational training (NVQ)
- Work experience
- Links with schools, colleges and university
- Use of local suppliers
- Management and Leadership Training
- Community based projects

Performance - LEP Programmes Social Value Impact

The Growth Deal programme generated a total of £25.9 million of added social value in the last reporting period (2018-19). At individual project level, Preston's Engineering & Innovation Centre has delivered a total of £5,864,644.00 of added social value during the construction phase of the project.

Across the City Deal programme this approach has generated some positive results at individual project level including the recently completed Penwortham Bypass which on completion of the construction phase the project has generated a total of £4,907,525.38 of added social value through local employment, training and procurement activity.

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.

Key Challenges / Matters of Consideration

The LEP's programme and project portfolio contains a wide range of projects of varying size duration and nature. Across the City Deal programme alone residential developments by themselves number approximately 90 sites along with a significant number of infrastructure and commercial sites. The effective harvesting of the socio economic benefits of the LEP's investment will require the adoption of a robust monitoring and reporting system centred around an appropriate SV monitoring tool.

A number of these themes are being explored as part of a wider scoping exercise being undertaken by Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson, an independent policy advisor which has been commissioned by LEDOG. The work is seeking to explore how local authorities in Lancashire could and should progress the way in which they undertake public procurement, with a particular focus on the establishment of a common approach social value across Lancashire encompassing a common framework, indicators and monitoring framework to realise wider economic, social and environmental outcomes.

Given the logistical challenges of monitoring and reporting social Value across such an extensive range of programmes and projects the LEP Board are asked to review the findings and recommendations of Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson report in due course with a view to adopting a software solution for monitoring social value across the LEP's programme and project portfolio.