

Lancashire LEP Social & Economic Value Report – 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

As outlined in the LEP Programme Report of December 2020, 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

Growth Deal Social Value Impact

The impact of the adoption of this approach can be seen at programme and project level. As reported in December's LEP Board Report, the Growth Deal programme generated a total of **£31.1m** of added social value in the last reporting period (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

The South East Blackburn Link Road project in Blackburn with Darwen has continued to generate some impressive social value outputs through the delivery of the project. The project has an ambitious social value programme to generate a range of local social and economic benefits including work placements, apprenticeships, careers activity and wider community benefits.

The project, valued at over £5 million, has ensured that at least 70% of all costs (labour, subcontractor and other suppliers) has been spent locally, within 25 miles of the borough (see attached for further information).

Performance data across the Growth Deal programme is currently in the process of being reviewed and an annual Growth Deal Social and Economic Report, covering the 2020/21 period to the end of March 2021, will be presented to the LEP Board later in the year.

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 the Preston Western Distributor project, which is also a Growth Deal project.

Despite the very challenging conditions of operating a large scale, live infrastructure site amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic, the project has generated some very positive early results in generating social value during the first year of the construction phase of the project.

In brief at the end of year 1 the project had generated the following outputs:

- 40.6% of spend this year is being made with local companies within 25 miles of the project
- Costain, the main contractor, has 30% local staff on the project, with 83 staff on site of which 25 live in the locality
- A total of eight apprentices are currently working on the project
- The project has provided opportunities for a total 14 ex-military members of the team, from main contractor and many supply chain partners
- Barratt Group – the formwork contractors have 21% BAME staff on their team, and 47% of their team are local to the project
- 53% of PSI labour agency staff are local to the project
- 66.6% of Frameworks labour agency staff are local to the project
- The project team have raised £3,080 for charity

A full Social Value Report for the Preston Western Distributor is attached for reference and further information.

Another project falling within the City Deal footprint which has generated a significant amount of local economic benefit is the highways work on the University of Central Lancashire's (UCLan) £200m Masterplan which is supporting local SMEs around Preston and the North West.

The project has been successful in delivering excellent local procurement figures with every penny spent on supply chain by Balfour Beatty being awarded to companies based within 40 miles of the construction site in the centre of the University's Preston Campus. Of which 96p of every pound spent was with small or medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

In addition to spending over £4 million with local SMEs since 2019, Balfour Beatty hired nine graduates and apprentices across the highways improvements project, created twelve new jobs and provided seventy weeks of paid work experience to local people, as well as working with over 2,500 local students via virtual events and participating in twelve volunteer days around the city.

Monitoring & Reporting

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.

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.