

Lancashire LEP Social & Economic Value Report – Lead Martin Hill

BACKGROUND

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has 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

The Growth Deal Social Value Impact

The impact of the adoption of this approach can be seen at programme and project level. As reported in February's LEP Board Report, the Growth Deal programme generated a total of £31.1 million of added social value in the last reporting period to the end of March 2021. 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
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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. In addition to the hard outcomes in terms work placement and apprenticeships the project has also retained spend within the local economy with 70% of spend by value being local.

Where Casey, the main contractor, has been particularly successful is nurturing local partnerships to deliver a wide range of community benefits, from fund raising through to food banks.

Working together with Kays Traffic Management the project has donated essential food and other items to the Blackburn Food Bank. The two companies are also working on a Primary Schools Design A Playground with Graphics Competition with Kays with a road safety theme.

In partnership with MIND the company have organised a 'Casey Around the World Challenge' with staff set a challenge to walk, run or ride 40,075 kilometres (circumference of the earth) raising money for the mental health charity.

Through their partnership with Creative Support, a national provider of Health & Social Care, and buy in from their wider supply chain and subcontractors the project team have supported several community-based health and wellbeing activities. These include Creative Football events and fundraisers to encourage physical activity, reduce loneliness and raise awareness of mental health within the community.

City Deal Social Value

As reported in the City Deal Executive and Stewardship Report of the 3rd February 2021, the Preston Western Distributor project has generated some very positive results in generating social value during the first year of the construction phase of the project despite the very challenging conditions of operating a large scale site amidst the Covid-19 Pandemic.

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
- 66.6% of Frameworks labour agency staff are local to the project

In the construction sector, the Skills Hub continues to work closely with partners and developers across the county to provide employment and skills opportunities for local people. The Skills Hub are working with the Construction Industry Training Broad and Procure Plus on the roll out of the Construction Skills Fund across Lancashire.

The programme is geared toward providing training and placements for new entrants/returners to the sector with a focus on priority and under-represented groups secure employment in the sector.

Despite the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the programme continues to deliver some very positive results (see below). The Skills Hub will continue to be an active member of the Construction Skills Fund Board and scope opportunities across LEP programmes and projects.

Construction Skills Fund: 1st April 2020 – 6th April 2021	Lancashire
Training Completions	132
Employed to date	55
Diversity – All Trained	
BAME Trained	9
Female Trained	7
Learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem.	17
NEET Trained	51
Ex-Offender Trained	11
Care Leaver Trained	7
Unemployed >6months Trained	60
Unemployed <6months Trained	75

The Construction Skills Fund came to a close for new starts at the end of March 2021 and will be superseded by the Onsite Experience programme which will continue to provide employment and skills opportunities for Lancashire residents.

One of the many projects participating in this programme is the Preston Western Distributor scheme which has provided a total of four opportunities to date including Steven, whose transformative story is told in the attached case study.

As previously outlined in the LEP Board Update, the Skills Hub continue to work Wilmott Dixon and L&Q/Trafford Housing Trust, to develop an ambitious social value programme for the D'Urton Lane development.

In addition to a range of positive outputs already generated on the project which include:

- 4 Local Employment Opportunities
- 6 Careers Information Sessions
- 4 Apprenticeship Opportunities
- 2 Weeks Work Placement
- 207 Pupils Engaged
- Series of Preston College Masterclasses

The project team are working with an extensive range of local partners to realise their social value offering including Preston's College, Inspira, Preston City Council, DWP, Calico, Procure Plus.

On the community front the project team are currently working with the Intact Community Centre to build a Sensory Garden and install fencing and Trafford Housing Trust have established a longer term partnership to support the centre going forward.

Wilmott Dixon have actively engaged with their supply chain to identify circa 10 Kickstart opportunities in a range of trades. The team are also working in partnership with the Lancashire Careers Hub to put together work based learning activity for Preston Muslim Girls School and The Larches High School, a Preston secondary alternative provision school which provides full time education for pupils who are not able to access mainstream educational provision.

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.