



PROCURING FOR YOU

Social Value IMPACT Report 2023



Welcome

Welcome to our 2023 Social Value Impact Report.

Over the past year our suppliers have continued to deliver tangible impact across the region. We've seen jobs created, apprenticeships started, emissions reduced and local groups supported.

Our delivery isn't done in isolation. We have worked with a wide range of delivery partners to ensure communities are supported in ways that work for them. This ensures social value delivery doesn't start and end with public sector contracts. Instead it helps to build long-term relationships and partnerships across the North East.

The team at NEPO has also stepped up its own social value delivery. We have supported local causes through fundraising, supported national campaigns and volunteered with local groups.

We know that we're only at the foothills of our work. A North East ESG Model is being developed which will deliver the North East's priorities. The Model will reduce the confusion about what social value is and how it is included in public procurement. It will move away from complex formulas and focus on what can be delivered by buyers and suppliers.

As the region moves into an exciting new phase of devolution, we need to ensure that social value remains at the heart of what we do. This will help us to build an inclusive economy that works for all and delivers our collective ambitions. We will achieve this through working in partnership with anchor institutions, the wider public sector and regional suppliers.

We look forward to making further progress in 2024.

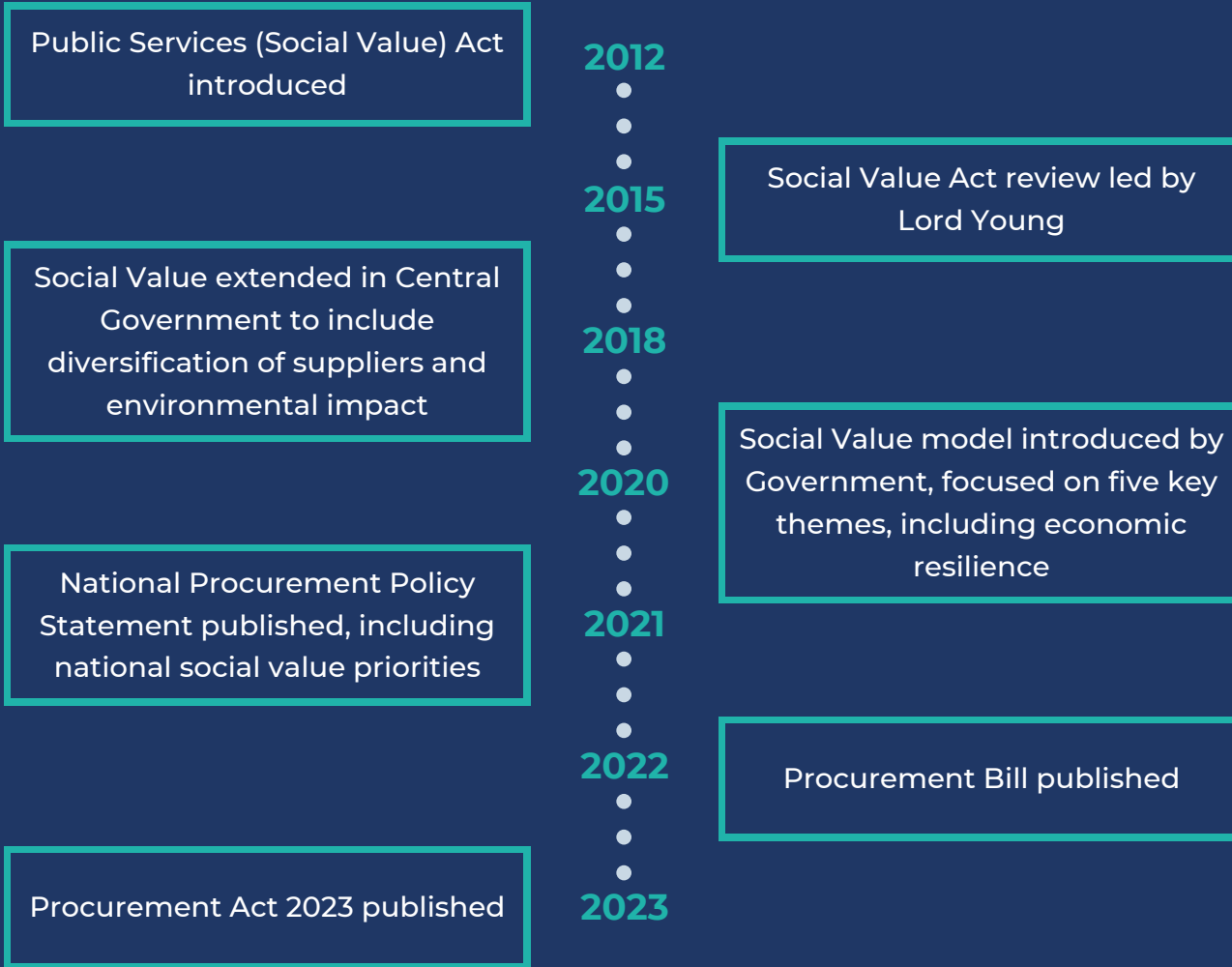
“As the region moves into an exciting new phase of devolution, we need to ensure that social value remains at the heart of what we do.”



Simon Hanson
Economic & Policy
Development
Management

Background

Since the introduction of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, the public sector has needed to consider how it can secure wider social, environmental and economic benefits in procurement.



The aim of the Procurement Act 2023 is to make the system quicker, simpler and more transparent. The Act proposes a shift in approach from most economically advantageous tender to most advantageous tender. This will allow the public sector to look beyond the cheapest option and strengthen wider considerations. Included in this will be social value that will be guided by the Social Value Model and the priorities outlined in the National Procurement Policy Statement.

What is social value?

In a nutshell social value is the added value we can achieve through public procurement. This includes social, economic and environmental benefits that can be achieved in contracts, frameworks and Dynamic Purchasing Systems.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires authorities to make the following considerations at the pre procurement stage:

- 1 How what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the 'relevant area'.
- 2 How in conducting a procurement process it might act with a view to securing that improvement whether to undertake a consultation on these matters.



What we have delivered since 2022...

Working in partnership with Member Authorities, suppliers and other key stakeholders, NEPO has delivered tangible social value outcomes across the region. Our suppliers have committed to delivering jobs, creating apprenticeships and reducing carbon emissions across the North East as shown below.



182
local people
employed in full
time positions



£374k
supporting
unemployed people
into work



1,132
of local school /
college visits



2,543 WEEKS
apprenticeship
weeks



£362k
spend with VCSE
supply chain



835 HOURS
provision of expert
advice



£48.5m
local supply chain
spend



£18.3m
local supply chain
spend with small
suppliers



£40.4k
donations / in-kind
contributions



1,726 TONNES
CO2 emissions
reduced



£31.7k
supply chain action
to tackle modern
slavery



£1k
reforestation / tree
planting

REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO307 Liquid Fuels: YourNRG

To help address the employability challenges in the North East, YourNRG has worked with local employment offices and agencies in Birtley, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough. This has included working with Northern Skills to develop and run an employability programme.

Through this work, they identified suitable local unemployed candidates to take part and receive support which included careers advice, mock interviews and CV writing advice.

There have been strong results from this programme, including one new job being created by YourNRG. The new employee is being supported to achieve their own ambitions by undertaking a Level 2 qualification in accounts and finance.



NEPO301 Electricity: EDF

EDF has continued to support the North East through its social value commitments.

EDF have provided £15,125 to Nexus to fund the production and distribution of 2,500 Pop Cards across the region to the following list of potential beneficiaries:

- **Sunderland:** Sunderland Culture, Young Asian Voices, Veterans in crisis, Sunderland Food Bank, Back on the Map Hendon, SAFC Foundation.
- **North Tyneside:** Teakisi, Whitley Bay Big Local, Jen Hewitt - Ending Loneliness Partnership Coordinator, North Tyneside Voluntary Organisation Development Agency (VODA), Walking With: Joan Hault, Living Well NT, NT Carers Centre, YMCA NT, Cedarwood Trust, Meadow Well Connected, Wallsend Well-Bee-ing Hub.
- **South Tyneside:** Cultural Spring, Hebburn Helps, NAAFI Break Veterans Group, Hospitality and Hope Wellbeing Trust, Hebburn Sea Cadets, BlissAbility.
- **Gateshead:** Comfrey Project.
- **Newcastle:** West End Foodbank, West End Women & Girls Centre, West End Refugee Service, Men's Pie Club, NUFC Foundation, Chilli studios, HealthWorks.
- **Region-wide:** Gem Arts, LRF funded centres, Voluntary Organisation Network North East (VONNE).

The funding will help Nexus provide free Pop Cards to several vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The provision of the cards will enable individuals to access social and economic opportunities by giving access to public transport at no cost to them. The support will help tackle some of the biggest societal challenges that local communities face including social isolation.

REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO311 Water Retail Services: Wave

As part of their social and sustainability promise, Wave are committed to making a difference in local communities. Volunteering days to support local charities in the region forms a big part of the commitments made to NEPO.

Working with the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) in Washington, NEPO and Wave were joined by colleagues from North East local authorities and the wider public sector for a day of building fences, raking meadows and painting hides, all of which helped the 100-acre site in its mission to restore, create and protect wetlands and their wildlife.



Building on the success of this event, Wave are coming back to the North East to work with Northumberland County Council to plant a shelter belt just outside Morpeth as part of the Great Northumberland Forest project.



“ We would like to say a huge thank you to NEPO, Wave and their customers, for giving their time to help improve and maintain the meadows, fences and hides down at Wader Lake.

This habitat offers vital refuge for hundreds of water birds every autumn and winter and their efforts will really make a difference not only to the birds themselves, but to the visitors who enjoy watching them as they spend time in wetland nature. ”

Gill Pipes
Centre Manager at WWT Washington

REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO302 Gas: Corona Energy

In the winter of 2022/23 Gateshead Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) worked alongside Gateshead Council and other community bodies to provide warm hubs for those struggling with the energy and cost of living crisis.

In support of this Corona provided a cash donation of £10,000 to Gateshead CAB to enable them to purchase and prepare winter warmer packs to be distributed throughout the network of community warm hubs across Gateshead.

“For many people, the rise in energy prices has put them in a position that they never thought they would face – seeking advice and help with their finances.”

Gateshead CAB



The funding meant they could buy enough materials including warm clothing items such as fleeces, hats, scarves, gloves and hot drinks products to provide 200 winter warmer bags. Distribution of the bags went to a wide variety of individuals and households across the borough.

Gateshead CAB said: “For many people, the rise in energy prices has put them in a position that they never thought they would face – seeking advice and help with their finances.

“A man in his 80s called into the Davidson Building to enquire about help with his fuel bills. He said that he and his wife own their own home, but they were struggling with their heating bills. He said he has never asked for help before. He mentioned that his hands were freezing, so we gave him a pack with extra gloves in and a couple of blankets for him and his wife. He was very happy to receive the pack as he said that he only puts his heating on for an hour or two and the blankets would help to keep them warm whilst they were watching the TV.”

Corona have confirmed they will be offering support to a similar initiative working with Stockton CAB in winter 2023.

REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO513 Legal Services: Trinity Chambers

Trinity Chambers have supported young people to help them enter the world of work through its 'Aspiring Advocates' schools outreach programme. The initial pilot for this was run in partnership with Egglecliffe School in Stockton and aimed at Year 10 pupils.

It was a six-week programme led by Trinity Chambers working in conjunction with other lawyers, with the aim of sparking interest in the legal profession amongst traditionally under-represented groups.



It focused on a different legal topic each week and ended with a session on advocacy skills. The aim of the programme was to ignite independent thought and encourage students to confidently pursue their ambitions.

The Egglecliffe School programme was delivered once a fortnight through small group sessions on criminal law, discrimination law, family law and social media law. It then concluded with a session on advocacy skills and at the end of the programme, all 45 students were presented with a certificate of achievement at Teesside Crown Court.

Following its success, the aim is to roll the programme out to other schools across the region targeting those schools in areas of high social deprivation where there is a significant proportion of students in receipt of pupil premium funding, free school meals and/or where English is an additional language.

REGIONAL Case Studies



NEPO502 Office Supplies:

Lyreco

Lyreco organised a community volunteer day as part of their social value commitment under the Office Supplies framework. They worked with North Tyneside Council to identify the Lovaine Community Garden as a charitable project in need of support.

Established by residents in 2010 the garden is a growing space located in the heart of North Shields town centre. It teaches organic horticulture to improve the environment and to promote gardening and access to nature for personal and community wellbeing. It also gives people with no access to their own garden spaces, or who may be unable to access or tend a garden because of physical or financial difficulties, housing constraints, or lack of horticultural knowledge.

The garden is used as the venue for coffee mornings to help combat social isolation and to help strengthen and build community friendships, through gardening clubs so people can benefit from social and therapeutic horticulture.

They also host live music sessions so that people can enjoy music in nature within an easily accessible greenspace. Other community groups and charities use the garden for art therapy sessions, holistic therapy, mindfulness and wellbeing groups and members of the public can book the garden for their own events.

To supplement the income for the garden they grow and sell various plants alongside any excess fresh produce to the residents and this was the focus for the volunteer day. The volunteers helped to fill over 300 planting bags with compost which were then planted with a variety of seedlings and cuttings. These will be grown on and sold to the public helping to generate income to help the ongoing operation and maintenance of the site.



REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPRO(3) Specialist Professional Services: Bloom Procurement Services

As the sole supplier on the NEPRO(3) framework, Bloom have continued to deliver a wide range of social value activities. In the third year of the framework, they have maintained a focus on social value and continue to demonstrate it remains a priority for them.



The following social value has been delivered:

- Total spend through the supply chain was £157.19m which has delivered impact in local economies and the selection of local suppliers to deliver projects including from the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.
- The creation of 37 new jobs across the business, together with the provision of over 121 hours of mentoring support to help to settle and thrive.
- An investment of £6,200 in an apprenticeship programme which provides buddying and mentoring support alongside the formal training under the programme.
- Funding support totalling £8,300 for charitable organisations including Changing Lives, Humankind, Feeding Families and The Wildlife Trusts.
- 2,515 trees planted around the world and £1,200 donated to Climate Action North East.



REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO221 Demolition Works & Associated Services: **MGL Group**

MGL Group were appointed by Stockton Borough Council to clear the sites of the former Swallow Hotel and Castlegate Shopping Centre. As part of this work they have delivered a wide range of social value activities including:

- 12 new jobs for residents of Stockton or the wider Tees Valley area.
- Worked with local charity Clean Slate Solutions to help identify and support people with a past convictions to access future job opportunities.
- Supported young people into work by delivering 50 hours of staff volunteer time through attendance at careers fairs held at Egglescliff School, Grangefield Academy and St Michael's School. They have also worked with Middlesbrough College.
- Created two apprenticeships.

NEPO211 Civil Engineering & Infrastructure: **Howard Civil Engineering**

Howard Civil Engineering were appointed by South Tyneside Council to undertake the £1.3m project to realign the A183 Coast Road. On successful completion of the project Howard delivered the following social value activities:

- **570** local school children educated about careers in construction through classroom visits.
- **£475k** spent through the local supply chain.
- **£10,131** donated to local charities, people and groups.
- **110.79 tonnes** of CO2 emissions offset.



REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO211 Civil Engineering & Infrastructure: Seymour Civil Engineering

Durham City Centre Bus Station

Seymour Civil Engineering were appointed by Durham County Council to undertake the civil engineering requirements of the project. Their role within the project enabled them to deliver the following social value activities:

- The creation of a full-time apprentice site engineering position. This has helped the apprentice gain valuable skills on a live site and help them achieve their career ambitions.
- Funding a training place opportunity for a local resident who was placed at the site. They received over £5,000 worth of training. From this support the resident went on to be provided with a Kickstart Opportunity and is now permanently employed with Seymour.
- Built a new growing area for Burnhope Primary School and the wider community and whilst on site repaired an existing footpath which had become unsafe.
- Durham Foodbank and Durham County Council's Fostering Service were supported through donations in kind from staff.

Coatham Seafront Regeneration Project

Appointed by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council to deliver a new public realm works at Coatham Seafront. The project involved the creation of a new car park, play area, seating and adventure golf. Across the duration of the contract Seymour successfully delivered the following social value outcomes:

- New jobs and training opportunities for local people. 84% of staff on the project lived within 30 miles. Eight weeks of practical on-site work experience were undertaken. Two Seymour Skills Academy graduates completed the Gateway to Construction programme and both have been offered permanent positions.
- 97% of material supplies came from local businesses and 89% of the plant and equipment came from local suppliers.
- The local community was supported through 60 hours of staff volunteer time including a beach clean exercise using Seymour's excavators and dumper trucks to remove larger fly tipped items.
- Local schools were supported with on site visits to Seymour. Working with Redcar Council's Building our Future Primary School programme to give Year 4 pupils the chance to be engineers for a day and a gold naming competition with Year 5 pupils for the new adventure course built under the project.



REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO207 Construction Works: Esh Group

Ryhope Doxford Link Road

Sunderland City Council appointed Esh Group to deliver the Ryhope Doxford Link Road which improved access from the city centre to the A19 in the south. The project involved a significant number of bulk earthworks with more than 99,000m³ of rock and 48,000m³ of clay excavated and removed from site to pave the way for the new road. In the delivery of the works, Esh delivered the following social value outcomes:

- Local employment supported with 10 full time equivalent roles created and the delivery of 80 weeks apprenticeship training.
- Work experience provided for two 16-year-olds and a Northumbria University student placed two days per week over three weeks.
- School engagement activities including attending Seaham High School for a STEM career day, St Patrick's Primary for two 'Get into STEM' sessions and one session at Hudson Primary School.
- Donations and volunteering in support of local community groups. This included donations of equipment and materials and £3,000 in cash to the Lighthouse Club to support a mental health awareness roadshow.

Seaburn Public Realm Works

Appointed by Sunderland City Council, Esh have delivered a wide range of social value outcomes during the project:

- The creation of three jobs for individuals out of work for six months as plant operatives and a labourer.
- A cash donation of £4,200 to a 'Social Chef' initiative which delivers waste not cookery workshops for residents to teach practical tips on reducing food waste. This involved the delivery of 10 workshops over two sites in North Sunderland and Sunderland West.

Trinity Enterprise Zone

Sunderland City Council appointed Esh to deliver the Trinity Enterprise Zone (Port of Sunderland) enabling works package, to provide a platform for developable land. Works included site clearance and earthworks, along with the construction of a new highway access to the site, new boundary fencing and repair work to existing masonry walls, landscaping works including ecological mitigation measures with 34,000m³ of excavated material to be segregated, crushed, screened and re-used on site. The social value delivered through the contract included:

- Work experience opportunities created for one individual who is an armed forces leaver, a local school student from Shotton and a Northumbria University student.
- Local staff have also held a fundraising event on Remembrance Day with the money raised going to the Royal British Legion.



REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO203 Rock Salt: [ICL UK](#)

ICL UK have worked with North Tyneside Council and pupils from Hadrian Park Primary School on a tree planting project. ICL supplied the materials and equipment needed as well as the sapling trees that were used during the project. Pupils were educated and informed on how trees help reduce emissions and tackle climate change.



This video shows the work that was undertaken and how much the pupils enjoyed the day.



REGIONAL Case Studies

NEPO521 Early Payment Service: Oxygen Finance

Recognising the challenges that local communities faced during winter 2022 Oxygen helped support two local initiatives.

Oxygen donated £500 towards the running costs for a project undertaken by the Newcastle United Foundation. In response to the cost of living and energy crisis they launched a warm rooms project in the winter 2022/23. This included extending the range of afterschool clubs for local children to provide full family access to a warm space in NUCASTLE.

The aim was to support the local community which was experiencing financial hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. The activities were free of charge to families and worked with other local bodies.



Activities were aimed at children and their families and revolved around football, multi-sports and Esports. The family support included access to Wi-Fi and computers, homework support, employability advice and access to showers. Other activities offered included STEM games, arts and crafts, board games and films.

Oxygen donated £500 to a winter warming project delivered in Gateshead through a partnership of the local council, Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau and a network of community organisations. Set up with the aim of helping the most vulnerable faced with the cost-of-living crisis the partnership had a network of warm hubs and spaces.

One of the challenges they faced was being able to offer the people using the spaces the opportunity to charge their mobile or other IT equipment which they relied on for family, social and economic reasons. Oxygen donated multi-headed charging cables with plugs to over 100 centres. This allowed the Gateshead warm hubs network to offer a fuller service to the vulnerable clients they engage with through the centres.

REGIONAL Case Studies

Open: Version 1

Version 1, a specialist IT managed services company, were appointed as the NEPO partner to provide the ongoing service and maintenance requirements for Open. For the duration of the contracts the social value commitments will deliver several benefits to the North East:

- Support for SMEs and VCSEs will be offered through the provision of £2,000 available in grants to be administered by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) to support start-ups.
- Tackling unemployment and skills shortages they will partner with North East Youth Zone to deliver 12 hours of employability skills sessions for young people furthest from the employment market each year, at a total cost of £3,800.



- Promote employment and economic stability by way of work placements over the three-year contract period. These will focus on interview and employability skills delivered over two days from the Newcastle office for up to 10 jobseekers/young people not in education or employment. They will work through the NELEP (14 hours pa careers support / CV mentoring x 10 participants) at a total cost of £44,343.
- The promotion of inclusion through the provision of four places at their Newcastle Academy to be created for NEPO over the three-year contract period. These will be reserved for people living in areas of multiple deprivation and administered through an ongoing partnership with Northumbria University (48 weeks training for recognised qualifications) at total cost of £15,255.



Delivering IMPACT locally

Local authorities in the North East have been at the forefront of delivering social value outcomes.

These outcomes have focused on delivering what is needed in local communities to:



help grow the economy



tackle the environmental
challenges faced



help improve skills and ensure
community groups are supported

Delivering IMPACT locally

Durham

Durham County Council has continued to demonstrate its commitment and drive to secure social value through the establishment of the [County Durham Pound Partnership](#). This brings together 'anchor' organisations from social housing, blue light services and education to work with the council on the delivery of the programme.

Through this initiative they have committed to working together to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits through the delivery of social value within the county.

The partnership has worked to develop a shared set of aims and objectives which are used to guide the inclusion and delivery of social value outcomes within their procurement processes and buying decisions.

These shared aims are:



Create more jobs for local people



Reduce impact on the environment



Prioritise better health and wellbeing



Support meaningful training and upskilling



Focus on equality, diversity and inclusion



Help communities, groups and charities

The work of the County Durham Pound Partnership has gone on to gain national recognition at the National Social Value Awards event held in London in June 2023. They were awarded as the winners of the Best Public Sector Project category.

The partnership secured a donation from Esh Group as a contribution towards the cost of a new minibus for a local children with learning disabilities at Villa Real School, near Consett. The students and staff from the school were delighted to take delivery of the specially adapted bus.



Delivering IMPACT locally

Sunderland

Sunderland City Council reported third party spend of £435m in 2022/23 with 35% of this spent with local suppliers, 29% with regional suppliers and 36% nationally. Through its procurement processes Sunderland includes a robust approach to social value and has secured £21.4m in social value commitments from 39 suppliers.

The Council has worked with the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance to set up a way to direct donations of cash or in-kind goods or services and volunteering to be directed towards areas of greatest need. This has resulted in £100K from 23 suppliers and 25,600 volunteering hours by 14 suppliers being committed in 2022/23 to be distributed by the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance.

Tree Works, Maintenance, and Tree Removal Services was set up to help Sunderland City Council's Environmental Services Arbor Team deliver services when work levels are high.

The following social value was offered by two of the successful suppliers, Airedale Forestry Ltd and ATW who have committed social values worth £266,275 to the community and includes:



£193,522 on retaining local staff. The incumbent Airedale Forestry Ltd will assign three members of their current team to work in part on the framework which totals 0.80 of an FTE and ATW Ltd committing to retaining six local members of their work force as resource for this framework.



£11,343 on volunteering days for litter picking in Sunderland in conjunction with the Great British Spring Clean. Days will also be donated to tree planting and replacement of damaged tree whips within the city.



£57,660 on two apprentices retained for further development for the duration of the framework.



£3,750 on donations to support charities and the voluntary sector in Sunderland.



Delivering IMPACT locally

Our **Catering Equipment Maintenance and Repair** framework was awarded to Upnorth Engineering to support the Catering Team to ensure their catering equipment in both council and school buildings is maintained and repaired accordingly. The total social value offered through the framework was £62,628, and included:



£55,292 to retain two local people on contract.



£203 on school and college visits to deliver 12 hours of career talks to help meet an identified skills gap in the engineering industry.



£6,294 to deliver 25 weeks of apprenticeship training to an apprentice.



£500 donated for materials to be used within communities.



£339 to deliver 20 hours of voluntary labour to local community groups.



Delivering IMPACT locally



Sunshine Co-op (East) runs a Well-Being Academy which helps those struggling with confidence, low self-esteem and social interaction to become work ready. Trainees from the Academy were encouraged to work with volunteers from the local community to learn how to grow food. The outdoor environment has helped the trainees become engaged and enthusiastic, and has proved to help those struggling to talk about their difficulties to speak more openly. Sunshine Co-op requested some materials to create raised beds, a seating area and a water capture system to replace their temporary pots, which were damaged.



Acumen Community Buildings has crowdfunded to restore the tables and the chairs in their community building. The building was originally used for the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District Council and is treasured by the local community. Now home to over 20 charities and social enterprises who have offices or shared space, there are over 6,000 people from the Coalfields area who attend activities and events at the community building. Refurbishing the former Council Chamber will enable more wellbeing activities to take place such as addressing loneliness and isolation, poor physical and mental health and wellbeing. Acumen Community Buildings requested wood flooring (a grant has already been successfully gained for the installation of the wood flooring) to enable the room to be used to its full potential.



Veterans in Crisis have operated from their Emergency Rendezvous (ERV) at 1 Roker Avenue since the later end of 2019, providing a foodbank, counselling, emergency apartment accommodation for families, cooking and laundry facilities, and socialising activities. These facilities are available to all veterans, their families and their carers, totalling some 27,000 people, one of the largest veteran communities outside of London. Currently their facilities do not provide easy access to disabled veterans who are confined to using wheelchairs, motorised scooters, or veterans with prosthetic limbs and sight loss. Plans have been drawn by Building Design Northern (free of charge) for an extension to its building, giving access to all who wish to use the ERV.

The Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance

Jewson Building Merchants - who were awarded a contract to provide the council with a managed store - offered the council £10,000 worth of goods to be used on any community project.

The Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance put a call out to the community to identify interest in the offer, which resulted in five charitable organisations being offered £2,000 each for their projects. They are currently working with each organisation and Jewson Building Merchants to make the most of the offer.

Four charitable organisations applied for the offer of materials to help them achieve the following:



The Building Block Day Centre in Washington was not being used to its full potential and needed refurbishing. Refurbishing the rooms will increase the capacity in the building, which will enable the building to host more free and subsidised community events, therefore extending the offer to the community. Building Blocks requested materials such as plaster, insulation, paint, timber to help them achieve their goal.

Delivering IMPACT locally

Gateshead

Through its Community Wealth Building (CWB) work, Gateshead Council have established a partnership of 'anchor' institutions to maximise the impact of local public sector spending decisions. The partners include representatives from health, education and the blue light services who can inform and influence these decisions.

Through the partnership a social value framework has been developed which aligns their aims with the priorities of the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A minimum 20% weighting for social value elements of their procurements has also been agreed. From this they have achieved £1.5m in social value offers which will help to deliver their CWB ambitions.

To support the delivery of the social value offers made, the partners have created and launched the [Gateshead Exchange website](#), which is a repository of social value needs and offers. This is used by local schools, colleges and charities to identify specific needs that can be met by suppliers offering social value. The site also allows suppliers to list if they have capacity to offer time, materials or expertise.

Using this approach the following social value outcomes have been achieved:

Crossling, the plumbing merchants, donated £1,000 to the Gateshead Mayor's Charity event, which took place on 6 April 2023. The four chosen charities were:



The Firefighters Charity: Formed during the Second World War to support the bereaved families of firefighters who had died during the Blitz, the charity has honoured the legacy of their bravery and sacrifice and evolved over the past 75 years.



Mental Health Concern: Providing a wide range of specialist services on behalf of the NHS and local authorities in the North East. Our mission is to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the people we serve.



Communication Workers Union Humanitarian Aid (CWUHA): A charitable organisation which was set up in response to the plight of vulnerable children. They operate mainly in Eastern Europe, in the UK, Republic of Ireland and Africa.



Readley: Providing vital support and awareness for people and their families affected by asbestos and mesothelioma related diseases.

Delivering IMPACT locally

Cumbria Waste Management were awarded a contract for the provision and operation of a material recovery facility which included the following social value:



£77,685 on three local direct employees retained on the contract.



£2,169.45 on connecting with schools and colleges to present a range of relevant subject material and run annual school days at MRF facility with 135 hours to be delivered.



£8,296 on provision of business wide opportunities for apprenticeships into the contract with 40 weeks to be delivered.



Up to £10,000 per package of financial, skills and material support e.g. charities or Thrive (gardening for disabled people) at a value of £10,000.



£2,651.55 on provision of 165 volunteer staff hours to community projects (relevant health and safety briefings and PPE needs to be provided by community project).



Delivering IMPACT locally

Tarmac Trading were awarded a contract for highways surfacing and cold planning which included the following social value offers:



£502,363 on the retention of 19.4 FTE jobs.



£321.40 on the delivery of a minimum of 20 hours' worth of STEM activities spent at local school and college visits.



Estimated achievement of 22 tCO₂e minimum reduction through utilising warm mix in place of conventional (hot) base and binder surface courses with a value of £1,525.70.



Delivering IMPACT locally



Newcastle

Newcastle City Council awarded a call-off contract to Esh Group to renovate and restore the Tyne Bridge. Included in the contract was a wide range of social value commitments, which aim to deliver added value and impact to the area and residents of Newcastle over the course of the project.

Action will also be taken by Esh to address environmental protection in areas including energy use, waste management and carbon reduction. Some of this will be aimed at supporting and protecting the important inland breeding colony of Kittiwakes centred around the bridge.



Five new jobs will be created with specific help given to the long term unemployed to access these.



50 weeks minimum of apprenticeship support will be available along with a range of employability skills programmes. Through these, one T-level and eight five-day work placement opportunities will be available to residents and eight schools will be enrolled on the Building My Skills programme.



20 spaces available to residents at employability workshops using STEM ambassadors and through the Constructing Careers programme.



Significant investment in local supply chains will also be made with around £5m being spent with North East business and around £3.5m of this with Newcastle suppliers and around £1m with SMEs and VCSEs.

Delivering IMPACT locally

South Tyneside

Social value in South Tyneside is underpinned and strengthened within the council's Procurement Strategy 2021-24. Through this it sets out the objective to promote and deliver local sustainability and economic development objectives, expressed as social value, in its procurement activities. Before any procurement action is taken there is full consideration of social factors covering environmental, economic and community benefits.

Local procurement practice also allows for a set number of local suppliers to bid where the contract value is below UK threshold limits to maximise the opportunity for local suppliers (Supply South Tyneside) when providing goods/services or works to the council. Social value is included in all major contracts above £100K but if appropriate can be included below this level.

The following case study demonstrates how this approach has helped to create social value outcomes which benefit residents and communities:



Upgrading the Council's IT Network: The Council's IT Networks team had the requirement to upgrade the core network, which includes switches and routers and other equipment. This upgrade was to bring the network estate fully up to standards using modern technologies.



£15,000 in IT equipment: The Council were provided with 50 iPhones and 50 laptop / tablets. 11 of these iPhones were transferred to Inspire and the remaining 39 iPhones and 50 laptop / tablets given to Children's Services to allocate to Care Leavers. This donation supports bridging the digital divide, supporting digital inclusion, and identifying ways of driving social mobility amongst the socially disadvantaged.



Supporting residents: It is supporting residents to becoming digitally capable and confident, and in achieving this to increase their social interaction and health and well-being. Being better connected and better informed opens a new world for many.



£9,000 rebate: Alongside this social value, the IT Service have secured rebate of approximately £9,000 from the recycling of IT devices with their contracted partner Stone Group and passed this to Children's Services to support with connectivity for the above donated devices.



Delivering IMPACT locally



The Council has developed its South Tyneside Pledge which includes a focus on helping local firms win more public procurement opportunities and deliver social value. Over 300 organisations have signed the Pledge demonstrating their commitment to the local area.

One of those organisations that have signed the Pledge is Glendale Countryside Ltd.

For over 20 years Glendale Countryside Ltd has been providing grounds maintenance and tree care services for South Tyneside Council. To demonstrate its commitment to the local area Glendale has signed the South Tyneside Pledge. As part of its commitment Glendale will create a Social Value Champion who will deliver career guidance for local people looking for work and helping community projects including community clear-ups and rewilding projects.

Analysis by Northumbria University has shown that the Pledge has added at least £3m a year to the South Tyneside economy.

Those that have signed the Pledge have delivered the following impacts:



60% using more local suppliers



61% have put in place climate change measures



40% have won more local contracts



55% have volunteered locally



57% have taken on local people



45% have provided work experience



40% have given school talks or career advice

Delivering IMPACT locally

North Tyneside

North Tyneside Council has continued to develop its approach to social value helping demonstrate an ongoing commitment to securing added value for their residents. With a minimum weighting of 10% allocated to social value in the tender process, and social value priorities derived from the policy priorities of the Mayor and Cabinet, they have successfully secured several offers from suppliers, including:

Plumbing and Heating contract awarded to Rothwells Plumbing Services

Rothwells social value offer included the reconstruction of the drainage system at Lovaine Gardens Community gardens based in North Shields. The cost of the work was £3,000 and the garden site manager was delighted with the work and the difference this made to this important community asset.

“Not only are they going to fix it, but they are also going to improve the hoses and connections so we can close the door, lag the cupboard and pipes to prevent further frost damage, and make us a sink to go above the water unit to wash pots, cups, hands etc.

All at no cost to us - this is something I have been wanting done forever, so excellent result!”

Lovaine Gardens site manager

Delivering IMPACT locally

PFI Contract Work undertaken by North Tyneside Council's Health Education Care and Safeguarding Team Morgan Sindall Property Services offered to support older, disabled and vulnerable people as part of their social value commitment.

They have spent £6,000 on a range of things as part of this offer of help, including:



Installation of defibrillators in six sheltered housing units.



Installation of new planters and pebbled pathways.



Provision of handymen for various jobs in shelters.



Support with waste disposal at the sites.



Delivering IMPACT locally

Northumberland

Northumberland County Council has awarded a call-off contract to DSD Construction. This includes a requirement for social value to be delivered across the County.

DSD Construction will deliver:

Work Readiness: Through the Northumberland Rural Employment Hub, facilitate four 'CV and Interview Readiness' workshops per year to help long term unemployed people become 'work ready'.

Creation of Apprenticeship: As a member of the 5% club, provide one full time rolling apprenticeship for a person who is experiencing barriers to employment from a deprived area.

Propose to employ 100% Northumberland based suppliers including plant hire/haulage SMEs.

Fundraising for Mental Health Charities: As part of a new fundraising initiative for mental health charities, DSD Construction have dedicated one of their paving machines (named the Wellbeing Machine) for charitable fund raising. It will donate 50p for each tonne of material laid with the Wellbeing Machine on the council's framework to Northumberland mental health charities such as Young Minds and Be You.

Work Experience Placements: Work with the council and Job Centre Plus to develop a three-month paid work experience programme for unemployed people. They will facilitate two of these programmes per year to help candidates gain employment. This will include training qualifications such as the CSCS card.



Delivering IMPACT locally

As part of their social value promise, DSD Construction will also deliver:

Schools STEM Support: Provide 96 hours of STEM support per year to secondary schools in deprived areas. This will include classroom/curriculum talks, careers advice and mental health workshops to encourage students to follow careers in the construction industry.



Staff Volunteering: Collaborate with the Northumberland Communities Together team to identify and organise suitable community volunteering opportunities for employees in Northumberland, prioritising opportunities in the most deprived areas.

Winter Warmth Packages: In partnership with Northumberland Warm Spaces, provide 100 winter warmth care packages for winter 2023/24.

Community Improvement Projects: Donate £18,000 per year in donations or 'benefit in kind' to community improvement projects. These will be typically surfacing / civils construction related and within their skill set. Will work with the Council to determine the most appropriate beneficiaries, with an emphasis on projects in deprived areas.

Provision of Computer Skill, First Aid and Mental Health Training: In partnership with the Northumberland Rural Employment Hub, will provide 24 hours of support to help people in deprived areas develop their computer skills, CVs and first aid training.

Support to Foodbanks: As part of cost-of-living crisis support, will donate £2,000 per year to Northumberland foodbanks such as the Wansbeck Valley, West Northumberland, Cramlington, Alnwick and Berwick.

Delivering IMPACT locally

Hartlepool

Recognising the real difference that social value delivery can have in local areas, Hartlepool Council has changed its procurement approach. This will focus on strengthening its commissioning processes to ensure that social value is embedded within its procurement practices.

Through this, the £120m that the council spends with external suppliers will help deliver the local economic, environmental and social ambitions for the town.

Across the town there are several suppliers that are already delivering tangible social value outcomes including Seymour Civil Engineering.

Throughout 2023, Seymour has worked with schools to ensure that students are prepared for the world of work.

“Students were thrilled from such a positive learning experience. Thank you for creating that opportunity for them.”

The English Martyrs Catholic
School and Sixth Form

In March 2023 Seymour's attended The English Martyrs Catholic School in Hartlepool to carry out some mock interviews.

Feedback from the school was hugely positive: “I would like to express our sincere thanks to you for taking time to help enrich our student's career opportunities. Your expertise, care and enthusiasm has allowed students to gain vital interview experience, helping them gain confidence and skills to succeed in the future.

“Students were thrilled by their individual feedback and came out buzzing from such a positive learning experience. Thank you for creating that opportunity for them.”



Delivering IMPACT locally

Redcar

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council commissioned the first carbon neutral road resurfacing scheme in the North East in 2022 as part of their ambitious aim to become a carbon neutral borough by 2030.

Work started in September 2022 to resurface Stirling Road in Redcar, the first street involved in this scheme, with further resurfacing to be done in Marske and Moorsholm.

The project was awarded to Miles Macadam, one of the first enterprises in the surfacing industry to become carbon neutral.

They work with an innovative surfacing product, Milepave, which, due to the materials used and a production process that requires lower temperature, leads to a reduction in aggregate, bitumen, and fossil fuels, lowering the carbon footprint of conventional road surfacing by 35%.



By using a carbon neutral contractor there are no indirect carbon emissions attributable to Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, supporting their aim of achieving Carbon Neutrality.

The amount of carbon footprint produced, after being measured by a bespoke carbon calculator, will be offset through a Verified Tree Planting Carbon Scheme and this will also be recognised by planting trees around the Borough, through Miles Macadam.

Wider ESG Work

Good Work Pledge

The North of Tyne Combined Authority developed its Good Work Pledge to make poor employment a thing of the past. Since its launch it has worked with employers to understand the key elements of Good Work, what they can do to achieve this for their employees, and what support is available to help them get there.

The Good Work Pledge includes five criteria that must be satisfied to achieve accreditation: valuing and rewarding your workforce, promoting health and wellbeing, effective communications, and representation, developing a balanced workforce, and social responsibility.

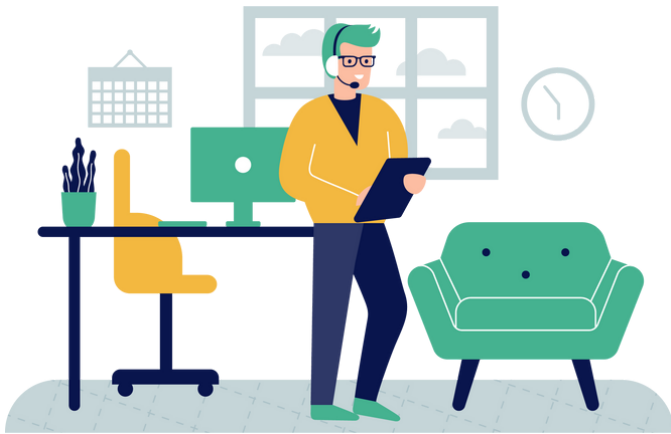
NEPO was delighted to achieve the advanced Good Work Pledge accreditation. This reflecting the commitment we make to our team and the work we do with our suppliers.

NEPO ESG Social Value Model

The North East is recognised as a national leader in delivering social value outcomes. As part of our NEPO 2025 strategy we will raise the ambitions and standards in delivering social value. This includes establishing a NEPO ESG model which will deliver the economic, environmental, and social ambitions of the North East. Created in the region, for the region, our model will become the benchmark for others to follow.

We are delighted to be working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to develop and produce a new regional social value model.

The work on the model will be completed by September 2024 providing the certainty and flexibility needed for both buyers and suppliers.



Wider ESG Work

Prompt Payment Code

The Prompt Payment Code is a voluntary code of practice for businesses that was established in December 2008. The code sets standard payment practices between organisations and their suppliers.

Signatories to the code undertake to:

- pay their suppliers on time and within the terms;
- give clear guidance to suppliers on terms, dispute resolution, and prompt notification of late payment;
- support good practice by encouraging adoption of the code.

The Code was updated in 2021 to strengthen the action taken to tackle late payments. The updates included the requirement to pay 95% of invoices within 60 days, that smaller businesses must be paid within 30 days and that signatories had to report annually on their payment performance.

NEPO and its Member Authorities are all signatories to the Prompt Payment Code. As part of our work through the ESG Strategy NEPO has committed to working with our contracted suppliers to encourage them to sign up to the Prompt Payment Code.

Signing up to the Prompt Payment Code will help them to demonstrate their commitment to tackling the scourge of late payment in the North East. It will also ensure that suppliers are complying with the requirements of the Procurement Policy Note 08/21 - Taking account of a bidder's approach to payment in the procurement of major government contracts.

NEPO will work with our contracted suppliers who have not signed the Prompt Payment Code to encourage them to sign up. Part of this work will be writing to contracted suppliers to outline the benefits of signing up and the commitment it shows to achieving the regional ambitions to encourage good work. Alongside this NEPO will continue to celebrate those that have signed up and develop case studies outlining the difference it has made.



Wider ESG Work

NEPO Modern Slavery Pledge

Since 2015 there has been a significant amount of work undertaken to tackle the scourge of modern slavery. This started with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals including a measure to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and human trafficking.

The Modern Slavery Act (2015) outlined how the Government will eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK. Included in the Act is a duty on public sector procurement to ensure that there is transparency in supply chains. This includes requiring commercial organisations with a turnover of more than £36m to disclose each year what action they have taken to ensure there is no modern slavery in their business or supply chains.

The Queens Speech 2022 included a Modern Slavery Bill which will strengthen the requirements of in-scope commercial organisations to set out what they have done to prevent modern slavery. It is expected that the Bill will also strengthen what needs to be included in modern slavery statements.

The Government has further strengthened its approach in Procurement Policy Note 02/23 Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains which was published in February 2023. Procurement teams must act in four key areas to stamp out modern slavery: identifying and managing risks in new procurements, assessing existing contracts, acting when victims of modern slavery are identified, and training. There has been guidance published to help procurement teams take the action that is needed.

NEPO has built on this procurement approach in its ESG Strategy. As part of this NEPO has developed a Modern Slavery Pledge. The pledge aims to ensure that the North East is united in tackling the scourge of modern slavery. The NEPO Modern Slavery Pledge sets out the commitment to work with our key regional partners, stakeholders, businesses, and VCSEs to eradicate slavery and exploitation across the North East.

[Visit our website to find out more about our Modern Slavery Pledge.](#)



WHAT'S NEXT?



nepo[®]
PROCURING FOR YOU

Over the past year NEPO and its Member Authorities have demonstrated the tangible impact that our collective social value deliver has made. Across major areas of spend we have seen suppliers deliver the commitments they have made which has seen jobs being created, local community groups being supported and supply chains being bolstered.

The next year marks a significant change for the North East in the work that it is doing in social value. To ensure that the region's objectives are being delivered NEPO is developing a new ESG model in partnership with CLES. This will be a model developed by the public sector, for the public sector based on the needs of the region. The new model will be steadfast in its ambitions and iterative in its delivery. Our Model will become the benchmark for others to follow.

Alongside this, the reformed NEPO Business Club will deliver the support that is needed by and match the ambitions of suppliers. Whether they are new to procurement or looking to expand what they do the new support will deliver for all suppliers. Social value support will be an integral part of this helping demystify what social value is, how suppliers can demonstrate what they can do and celebrating our collective successes.

There are exciting times ahead. The region will be a trailblazer in delivering the procurement aspirations included in the Procurement Bill. The reforms must work for buyers and suppliers alike to ensure that we continue to deliver tangible impact in social value delivery. There will be challenges and opportunities as we roll out the new approach.

**As a region, the North East will
take up this challenge.**



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