Sustainability & Social Value: **Supplier Guidance**

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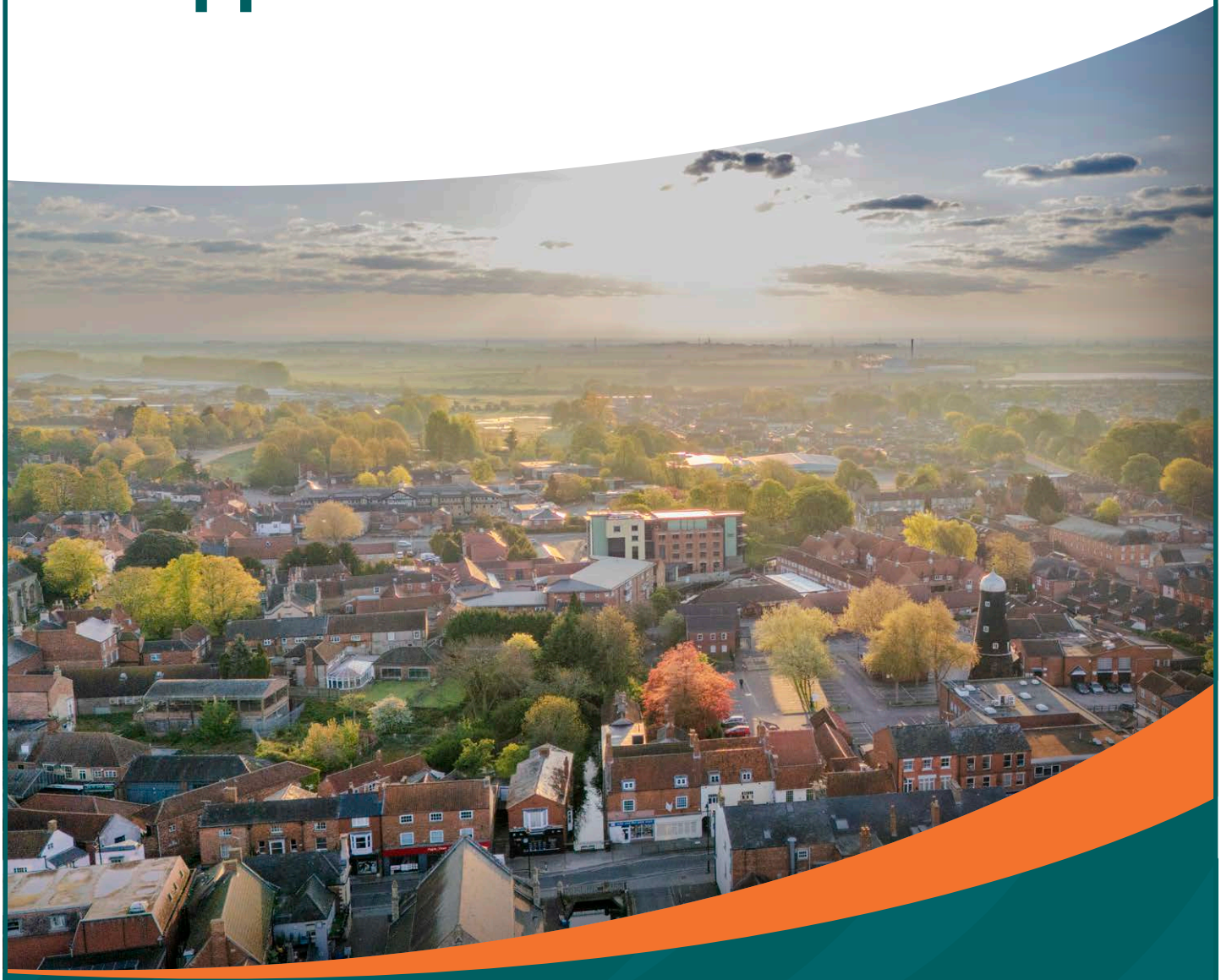

BUSINESS NK

North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sustainability & Social Value: Supplier Guidance

This document has been prepared to inform suppliers that North Kesteven District Council places a strong emphasis on sustainability and social value within its contracts. Below are the key elements that suppliers will be expected to consider, and which will form part of the scoring and evaluation process.

The council is committed to embedding sustainability and social value at the centre of all procurement activity. The councils Governance and Business Resilience Team facilitate the management of the service level agreement with Procurement Lincolnshire. Procurement Lincolnshire is a shared service partnership made up of local authorities within Lincolnshire and formally hosted by Lincolnshire County Council on behalf of the partner authorities. It aims to:

- Obtain the best value contracts whilst not comprising on quality
- Engage with suppliers to promote the local economy
- Account for the social and environmental impact of procurement

This guidance has been developed to help suppliers understand how their commitments will contribute to wider environmental, social, and economic benefits for our communities. By outlining our approach, the council aims to support suppliers in delivering outcomes that align with the delivery of the councils Climate Response Strategy alongside national legislation including the Climate Change Act (2008).

Definitions:

Sustainability is defined as:

> **"the responsible management of resources and decision-making that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".**

Social value is defined as:

> **"a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, which minimises damage to the environment".**

The council acknowledges that the level of sustainability and social value will vary according to each unique contract. A one size fits all approach will not obtain the best sustainability and social value outcomes or be compliant with procurement regulation.

To obtain the best outcomes sustainability and social value will be considered and evidenced at every stage of the commissioning process, from commissioning through to contract management. Once a contract is awarded, your social value and environmental commitments become part of your core contract delivery and responsibilities. The councils Governance and Business Resilience Team will take responsibility to monitor performance.

Plans and Policies:

The NK Plan sets out the Council's vision and five priorities which are outlined below.

1. **Our Economy** – to support sustainable and regenerative local economic growth and resilience, transitioning to a Green Economy working within environmental thresholds.

2. **Our Communities** – to enhance the health and wellbeing, safety and resilience of all our communities; inspiring and supporting a sustainable and flourishing future.

3. **Our Council** – to be a high performing, value for money Council that is agile, resilient and actively embraces the challenges and opportunities of the future.

4. **Our Homes** – through the Local Plan, deliver sustainable housing growth and pursue energy efficient development to meet the current and emerging needs of all.

5. **Our Environment** – champion and deliver a just transition for our climate and environmental commitments and aspirations.

By linking sustainability and social value outcomes to the NK Plan, alongside its Climate Response Strategy and Environment Policy it gives suppliers guidance on what the council is seeking to achieve for its residents and helps provide the council with a methodology of how sustainability and social value can be assessed and measured within procurement and contracting processes.

Sustainability and social value themes

The council has created four themes which highlight its priorities which will be considered in appropriate procurement activities. Please see the table below outlining the themes alongside example measures.

Theme	Example measures
Promoting local skills and employment	▪ Local people employed ▪ Jobs created for those with additional needs ▪ Training opportunities created ▪ Supporting younger people into work
Supporting growth of responsible regional business	▪ Using local supply chains ▪ Commitment to work practices that support staff health and wellbeing ▪ Diversity training offered ▪ Commitment to ethical practices
Healthier, safer and more resilient communities	▪ Initiatives to tackle homelessness and to support local youth groups ▪ Volunteering in the local community
Protecting and improving our environment	▪ Using low or zero emission cars ▪ Reduction of fossil fuel use during the contract ▪ Volunteer time dedicated to the creation and management of local green spaces and/or improve biodiversity ▪ Providing data such as fuel consumption and/or mileage data when requested to inform the councils emissions calculations

The council will determine which approach best fits each specific procurement activity. NKDC works with suppliers of all sizes and applies a proportionate approach to sustainability and social value so a smaller contract will not require the same level of detail as larger ones. Suppliers should focus on what is relevant and achievable for their organisation while showing a genuine commitment to improving outcomes for North Kesteven's residents, communities and environment.

To ensure sustainability and social value commitments are delivered, suppliers will be required to:

- Report progress at agreed intervals (e.g. quarterly or annually)
- Provide evidence of outcomes (data, case studies, photos)
- Highlight challenges early so support can be provided
- Participate in contract review meetings where required

Failure to deliver agreed commitments may be considered in contract management discussions.

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