

Derwentside College Social Value Statement

Derwentside College recognises its duty under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and the Procurement Act 2023 to consider how the goods, services, and works it procures can improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of both the local community and the wider UK. This commitment, embedded in the [National Procurement Policy Statement](#), underpins our approach to responsible procurement.

Social value is about achieving the greatest possible public benefit from every pound spent. At Derwentside College, we are committed to embedding social value into our procurement and commissioning processes to support inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and community resilience.

To deliver on this commitment, the College has identified key themes that reflect both national priorities and local needs. These themes guide our procurement approach and are applied proportionately and appropriately to each contract we award. Our key social value priorities include:

- **Supporting local employment and skills development**, particularly for young people and underrepresented groups.
- **Tackling climate change and reducing waste** through sustainable procurement and low-carbon practices.
- **Promoting environmentally responsible practices** that contribute to the transition to net zero.
- **Fostering community engagement and partnerships** that strengthen social cohesion and resilience.

We work collaboratively with suppliers, developers, partners, and the community to maximise social value outcomes, retain wealth within the local economy, and create long-term benefits for our learners and stakeholders.

To ensure social value is meaningfully considered, the College applies a **minimum 10% weighting** to social value criteria in relevant procurement decisions. This ensures that social value is embedded from the earliest stages of project planning and throughout the contract lifecycle.

By aligning our procurement practices with these principles, Derwentside College not only meets its statutory obligations but also reinforces its role as a catalyst for positive change in County Durham and beyond.

This statement complements the College [Corporate Social Responsibility Statement](#), which can be found on the College website.