

GMSVN Social Value Policy Statement

Mention the words social value to many organisations and there can often be a relatively stock response. 'Our organisation is doing it anyway through the services we provide'. 'We have sponsored the local kids football team for the last 5 years'. 'We deliver benefit simply through our location in a deprived neighbourhood'. 'We offer apprenticeships to local young people for 2 months'.

Whilst all these activities are of course valuable, it represents a relatively straightforward perspective on social value. For the Greater Manchester Social Value Network, social value is not just about activities, which bring benefits for local economies, communities and people; instead it is a way of working and a culture.

Across Greater Manchester, there are thousands of organisations in the public, commercial and social sectors. These organisations create jobs, they contribute to the growth of the Greater Manchester economy, and they create and sustain wealth. Yet, Greater Manchester also faces significant challenges: health inequality is amongst the worst in Europe; people are not paid sufficiently to live a decent life; and air quality is the worst in the UK.

Greater Manchester needs to adapt and create a place and an economy which harnesses wealth for the benefit of all and which reduces and eradicates inequality and poverty. Social value is integral to this. We need our strategies, policies, delivery frameworks, and business and social sector activities to have social value as a common thread. We need to think in everything that we do how we can deliver added economic, social and environmental benefit.

This is not just about businesses stating in procurement documentation what they are already doing for communities – it is about going beyond that and proposing new and better value activities. This is not just about local authorities scoring on social value in procurement – it is about embedding it into the culture of all commissioning, procurement and service delivery. This is not just about the business sector providing tokenistic support to the voluntary and community sector – it is about proper partnership working. And this is not just about the social sector thinking that their activities are social value – it is about enhancing their impact and reach.

The Greater Manchester Social Value Network exists to realise this culture. We want social value embedded in everything that organisations in the City Region do. We do this through gathering case studies and stories of social value, training organisations on what social value is, and through influencing strategy makers and stakeholders across the public, commercial and social sectors. Our vision is to enable real change, with social value at the heart of everything which Greater Manchester does. Come and join us and embed social value into the approach of your organisation.