

Subject:	Social Value Procurement Policy – Applying a Minimum Contract Period <6 months	
Date:	11 th February 2025	
Reporting Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services 'CPS'	
Contact Officer:	Contact Officer: Lewis Murray, Strategic Category Officer, CPS	

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues	
	To ask Members to approve an amendment to the Social Value Procurement Policy 'SVPP'	
	to allow for additional flexibility so that Officers can opt out of including social value scoring and weighting in tenders that are <6 months (approx.) in duration.	
2.0	Background	
	The SVPP was approved by Committee in April 22 with full application of the SVPP from 1st April 2023.	
	A copy of the SVPP can be found here - <u>Social Value Procurement Policy</u> (belfastcity.gov.uk)	
	In short, the SVPP mandates that for all tenders ⁱ over £30,000:	
	 Suppliers must pay the Real Living Wage to all its employees assigned to work on a BCC contract. 	
	 Suppliers must not use zero hours contracts for any of its employees assigned to work on a BCC contract. 	
	 Social value scoring and weighting is applied as part of the evaluation. SV weighting is determined by the cost weighting (i.e. if cost is >50% then SV is 10%; if cost is ≤50% then SV is 15%.) 	
	A minimum social value scoring threshold is applied during evaluation.	
	The SVPP only uses the £30k contract value as a measure of when the SVPP is to be applied to tender competitions. While this has largely worked well to date (see section 2) it has presented some challenges; particularly more recently for shorter duration contracts i.e. <6 months duration. Some examples of this are set out in section 3.	
2.0	SV delivery to date (as of Dec 24)	
	Below is some key data from our records setting out SV commitments suppliers have made to date as part of tender competitions under the SVPP.	
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Work is ongoing to monitor the delivery of these SV commitments through the Council's contract management procedures.

3.0 Short duration contracts < 6 months

The Council procures a small number of >£30k projects each year that are of short duration i.e. <6 months. These are typically Works type contracts (e.g. installation projects). Some recent examples include:

Tender/ Project	Value (£)	Duration
Henry Jones Car Park CCTV & Floodlighting Installation Works	£52k	<12 weeks. (6 week lead time for products and 1 week on site)
NRF_ACT Initiative – Interpretive fit out design & installation	£75k	< 4 months
Stained Glass window (LGBT) at City Hall	£32k	<12 weeks (On site <3 days for fitting)

Officer's experiences to date when trying to apply the SVPP to projects < 6 months (approx.) have found that in most cases it is not practical and oftens leads either to no bids or poor-quality submissions from the market.

This is due to there not being sufficient time for a supplier to deliver a meaningful SV initiative(s) in the short period of time.

Based on tenders awarded (89 total) during 2024 six (6) were <6 months in duration with 3 to 4 of those tenders also low value. This recommended change to policy only likely to affect <5 tenders per year (<5%).

4.0 Proposed amendment to SVPP

Members are asked to approve that the SVPP is updated to include flexibility so that Officers can opt out of including social value scoring and weighting in tenders that are < 6 months (approx.) in duration. Other aspects for the SVPP will continue to apply to over £30k tenders i.e. Reserved Contracts, SV Organisational Behaviours, RLW and Zero Hours Contracts.

Depending on the requirement Officers can still apply SV scoring and weighting to tenders <6 months i.e. larger value short duration projects.

This should help address some of the challenges faced by Officers and suppliers set out above with marginal impact to value add that the SVPP is continuing to deliver.

The SVPP and associated SV toolkit and guidance for Officers and suppliers will be updated to reflect this.

Instances where SVPP has not been applied will continue to be reported to Members via the Social Policy Working Group as part of the regular reporting.