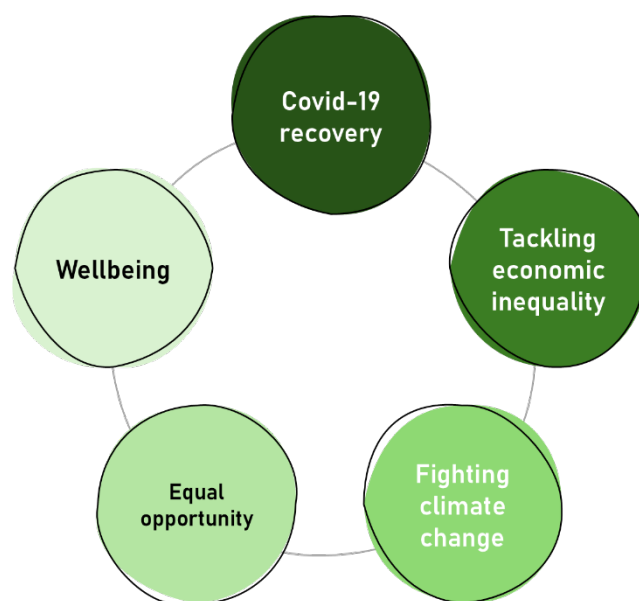


Social Value Policy

At Abingdon and Witney College, we recognise the importance of social value in driving positive change in our society. Social value refers to the wider benefits that are generated by public activity beyond the direct delivery of goods and services. It encompasses social, economic and environmental outcomes that contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and communities. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 mandates that public authorities must consider how they can secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits when procuring contracts above a certain value. At Abingdon and Witney College, we believe that social value should not be viewed solely as a legal obligation but as a responsibility and opportunity for us to be an active and caring member of our community.



Social Value Model

The Social Value Model's five key themes align with the values of Abingdon and Witney College. Within these themes, we have prioritised the outcomes and criteria that we believe are most relevant and where we can make the greatest difference. We are committed to delivering social value through our programmes, partnerships, and operations, and we will strive to create a positive impact on society by focusing on these themes and outcomes.

Policy Scope

The purpose of this Social Value Policy is to establish a clear understanding of what social value means for Abingdon and Witney College, and how we can deliver it through our programmes, partnerships, and operations. This policy is intended to guide our decision-making and ensure that we embed social value into all aspects of our activities. The policy is for all employees, learners, partners, and stakeholders of

Abingdon and Witney College, as we recognise the connected role we play in creating social value.

The policy applies to all of our corporate activities, including procurement, estate management, marketing, operations and communications. Wherever possible, it also extends to our supply chain, as we believe that our suppliers should share our commitment to social value and contribute to its delivery wherever possible. We will work with our suppliers to ensure that they are aware of our social value expectations, and that they have the opportunity to support our efforts in this area.

Lastly, this Social Value Policy seeks to set out social value priorities for Abingdon and Witney College. By establishing these priorities, we aim to focus our efforts on delivering outcomes and criteria that will create the most significant impact on our stakeholders and society. We will regularly review and update our priorities, considering feedback from our stakeholders and changes in our operating environment.

What is Social Value?

At Abingdon and Witney College, we define social value as the positive impact on local people, communities, economy, and environment. Social value is created when the wider benefits of an activity go beyond the direct delivery of goods and services. It encompasses social, economic, and environmental outcomes that contribute to the wellbeing of individuals and communities. We recognise that for every activity we do, some form of impact is being generated, capturing the value of these impacts is the Social Value.

With that in mind, we seek to move beyond making decisions based primarily on the financial cost or price and to focus on 'value for money' in its widest sense. We consider potential social benefits (involving people, culture, and interactions), economic benefits (such as money flow and financial resources), and environmental benefits (involving the place in which people live, the planet, and use of resources). We believe that social value should be an integral part of our decision-making and should be measured and evaluated alongside other objectives.

Our commitments

At Abingdon and Witney College, we recognise our responsibility to address the social, economic, and environmental challenges of today's world. The Social Value Model provides us with a framework to guide our efforts in creating a sustainable and positive impact on society through our programmes, partnerships, and operations.

In alignment with the Social Value Model's five key themes, our commitments aim to prioritise the outcomes and criteria that we believe are most relevant to our community and where we can make the greatest difference. By focusing on these themes and

outcomes, we can strive to create a significant and lasting impact on the welfare, prosperity, and sustainability of our region.

This section outlines our commitments, which will be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant and effective. Our commitments reflect our values and our aim to continue to be a positive force for change within our local community and beyond.

Covid-19 Recovery	<i>Help the economy individuals and communities recover</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide flexible learning opportunities and support services for those affected by long-term Covid, ensuring inclusivity in education and training. 2. Commit to upskilling learners, staff, and local businesses in the use of technology, ensuring they are better prepared to adapt to remote work, online learning, and virtual collaboration in the event of future disruptions to develop post-pandemic resilience 3. Commit to embedding the skills developed during Covid-19 into daily practise to promote post-pandemic resilience, such as continued remote working opportunities, virtual spaces etc
Tackling economic inequality	<i>Create new businesses new jobs and new skills</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Continue to review our programmes to ensure they are relevant to the needs of our local community to satisfy labour demands 5. Regularly review our partners to ensure we are continuously providing the best calibre of teaching and learning possible to develop relevant industry skills for the local community to increase local labour supply 6. We will consistently search for development opportunities to upskill our leaners and reduce barriers to employment wherever possible
	<i>Increase supply chain resilience and capacity</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Partner, wherever possible, with local suppliers and businesses to strengthen the college's supply chain, prioritising ethical sourcing and sustainability 8. Ensure that procurement decisions favour suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to sustainable and ethical practices, contributing to long-term community resilience.
Fighting Climate Change	<i>Effective stewardship of the environment</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Commit to becoming Net-Zero by 2050 10. Establish and commit to a Carbon Reduction Plan to make significant changes to our operations and processes in the pursuit for Net-Zero 11. Wherever possible, commit to the development and upskilling of sustainability practices, renewable energy, and energy-efficiency to promote environmental stewardship among learners and staff. 12. Wherever possible, invest in renewable energy sources
Equal Opportunity	<i>Reduce disability employment gap</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Offer a range of student support services including specialist disability, mental health and academic support for students who require extra support to succeed 14. Establish partnerships with local employers to create tailored employment pathways for students with disabilities, ensuring job placements and internships are accessible. 15. Invest in inclusive technologies and adaptive learning environments to ensure that all students, regardless of ability, can fully participate in their studies.
	<i>Tackling workforce inequality</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Develop employee resources groups aimed minority or underrepresented groups of staff to support career progression, support and tackle inequality. 17. Introduce unconscious bias training for all staff involved in recruitment to ensure fair and equitable hiring practices. 18. Regularly review pay equity among staff to ensure equal pay for equal work, identifying and addressing any pay gaps that may arise.
Wellbeing	<i>Improve health and well-being</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Offer a range of support services and resources that promote mental and physical health, to all staff and students 20. Regularly consult with our staff, students and other stakeholders to review our existing policies, plans and activities to identify opportunities for improvement and how we can better support the mentally, physically well-being of our stakeholders 21. Maintain mental health first aiders
	<i>Improve community integration</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Challenge discrimination and take action to ensure that our staff and students are treated fairly and with respect 23. Foster partnerships with local charities and community organisations to support integration projects, such as volunteering programmes and community outreach events.

		<p>24. Launch cultural awareness initiatives to promote understanding and integration among the diverse student body, celebrating various cultural heritages and promoting inclusivity.</p> <p>25. Commit to frequent Community Outreach Days to promote community care and active citizenship</p>
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Governance

At Abingdon and Witney College, we are committed to embedding social value at the heart of our operations. A Social Value Leadership Group, comprising senior management, will oversee the integration and delivery of social value across the College’s activities. This group is responsible for ensuring that social value principles are applied in decision-making, procurement, and strategic planning.

Social Value frameworks and commitments will be shared with committee groups made up of representatives from key departments, including contracts, procurement, curriculum, and community engagement. This committees will work to share best practices and ensure that social value is consistently embedded across all facets of the College’s activities.

The College will continue to evolve its Social Value Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure impact. We will build on the successful implementation of frameworks, adapting best practices from sectors such as education and public services to ensure our social value metrics remain robust.

Monitoring

To ensure that the social value commitments made by Abingdon and Witney College are delivered, we will implement a comprehensive monitoring process. This will involve regular reviews of the social value outcomes achieved through our contracts and projects, particularly where public funding is involved. The College will work closely with external partners and suppliers to ensure that they meet the social value promises they have made when engaging with the College.

Where there are challenges in delivering agreed social value outcomes during the lifecycle of a project or contract, the College may agree to alternative outcomes of equivalent value, where necessary.

Reporting

Abingdon and Witney College will produce a social value proposal for the contracts and projects they bid for, working closely with the contracting bodies to report on the realisation of these proposals throughout the project.

Wherever possible, Abingdon and Witney College will aim to measure the Social Value generated by its activities, operations, and internal initiatives. The College will communicate the social impact of its work through appropriate channels, which may include project reports, case studies, and presentations to stakeholders.

By sharing the outcomes and benefits of our social value efforts with partners, staff, students, and the wider community, we will ensure transparency and demonstrate the ongoing positive contributions the College makes to society.

Supporting Policies and Statements

Below is a list of the relevant policies and procedures that underpin our Social Value Policy, ensuring consistency and alignment of values across our organisation.

- Staff Wellbeing Policy
- Subcontracting Procedures
- Value for money policy
- Flexible Working Policy
- EV Charging Procedure
- Family Friendly Policy
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Anti-bribery policy
- Business continuity policy
- Conflict of interest policy
- Data protection policy
- Safeguarding policy