

Responsible Procurement Charter

October 2023



North
Tyneside
Council

North Tyneside Council

Responsible Procurement Charter

Every year North Tyneside Council procures a significant quantity of services and supplies, with a vast supply chain of over 4,000 suppliers and an annual external spend of £260 million.

With this comes a responsibility to ensure that we incorporate legal, ethical, environmental, and social considerations into our spending decisions whilst maximising value for residents of North Tyneside. We will ensure an informed decision-making process is followed to maintain a balance between economic, social and environmental priorities in making procurement choices, whilst meeting the required operational and business requirements.

Our relationship with suppliers will be underpinned by the following **principles**:

- Transparency
- integrity
- fairness
- accountability
- engagement
- respect

In exchange our **commitment to organisations** will focus on maintaining and fostering relationships with organisations whose values (we care, we listen, we are ambitious and we are value for money) and objectives align to those of the Authority, this will include the voluntary and community sector, not for profit and charitable organisations.

Our Charter focuses on the following areas:

		How we will do business	Our commitment
Thriving	Economic Prosperity and impact	<p>We will support local businesses as well as larger national organisations. We will ensure our tendering process engage the market at the right time and our opportunities are attractive to the market. We support prompt payment and expect our supply chain to have similar payment terms.</p> <p>Making North Tyneside Council an exemplar procuring Authority.</p>	<p>We will utilise our relationships we have with organisations to make connections to ensure the borough thrives and attracts good quality organisations.</p>
	Social value	<p>We will continually review the contracting decisions made on behalf of the Authority. Ensuring best practice in how we procure goods and services. We will maximise the opportunity for Social Value within our supply chain. We will engage with and support markets to deliver on our behalf. We will review purchasing decisions to consider whether we can deliver internally or partner with similar agencies to support delivery.</p>	<p>We will ensure key links are made between organisations and our supply chain to maximise the potential impact of social value within the borough.</p>

		How we will do business	Our commitment
Secure	Residents	Our residents are at the heart of what we do. Maximising value for our residents is key and delivering right first time is essential.	We will seek to utilise our asset base with organisations. Maximising use of the community and voluntary sector organisations asset base. Working together to support our Equally Well Strategy.
	Safe communities	Community safety ensures that North Tyneside is a great place to work, visit and live. Working with our supply chain to achieve a strong and safe community free from crime, intimidation, harassment, and fear.	
Family Friendly	Safeguarding	With our supply chain we will look for every opportunity to improve the welfare of residents, implementing practices that safeguard vulnerable communities and avoiding practices that could cause harm, this includes being alert to the risks of modern slavery.	We will work with organisations to share best practice and provide statutory guidance where we are market leaders (safeguarding and social care) for vulnerable children and adults, to have the greatest impact within the workplace and to ensure that our residents are safe and cared for. We will work with organisations to ensure that services delivered are maximised.
Caring	Health, Safety and Wellbeing	The health, safety, and wellbeing of everyone who lives, works or visits North Tyneside is a collective responsibility.	We will use our expertise to ensure that organisations have the right expertise to deliver key services.

		How we will do business	Our commitment
		We aim to provide our staff with all necessary training, equipment, and methods to achieve the highest level of health and safety performance and expect the same from our supply chain.	
	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	North Tyneside Council celebrates the value that different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives can bring to our communities and businesses. In all activities we recognise the importance of ensuring no-one is treated in a way that excludes or discriminates, this includes identifying any practices that may disadvantage any specific group of residents and doing everything we can to prevent them.	We will link organisations prioritising those where a relationship will make most difference to inequality in North Tyneside.

		How we will do business	Our commitment
Green	Working towards a carbon net-zero future	North Tyneside Council has declared a climate emergency, setting a target to be carbon neutral by 2030. Our charter sets an ambition for the supply chain to help us work towards these goals. We want to reduce waste, emissions, and the use of natural resources. We support technology and innovative methods to help us achieve this aim.	We will continue work with organisations to reduce our carbon. We will link organisations with our supply chain to maximise the benefit.