** Bradley Stoke Town Council**

**Healthy, Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Guidelines**

**INTRODUCTION**

These guidelines are designed to embed the principles of healthy, ethical and sustainable development into aspects of Bradley Stoke Town Council (BSTC) activity. There will be a specific focus on healthy, ethical and sustainable procurement with the aim of achieving positive social, economic and environmental impacts for the purchase of goods, works and services.

This is required under the Public Services Social Value Act 2012[[1]](#footnote-1) where procuring authorities are required to consider the economic, environmental, and social benefits of their approaches to procurement before the process starts.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim is to:

* meet or exceed all Government Buying Standards (GBS) relating to health and sustainability
* encourage and enable suppliers to contribute towards Climate and Ecological targets
* be compliant with the 2023 Procurement Act which received Royal Assent in October that year, and due to come into force by February 2025 and requires contracting authorities to consider social value in procurement activity[[2]](#footnote-2)

Accordingly, BSTC will:

* specify healthy and environmentally beneficial goods and services
* consider whole of life costs of purchases
* contract with suppliers who are concerned about their environmental performance
* use contractors who can demonstrate policies and procedures to address healthy, ethical and environmental issues
* minimise waste
* use goods that have recognised and trusted environmental or ethical standards' labels

**ACTIONS**

When considering awarding procurement contracts, BSTC will take “social value” into account having regard to statutory guidance from the government to include economic, social, and environmental evaluation factors into procurement decisions.

BSTC will follow sustainable principles as outlined by South Gloucestershire Council and elsewhere which involves:

* *ensuring procurement seeks to offset carbon emissions from procured goods and services into Council delivered projects which also protect and restore nature and promotes healthy lifestyles. This is in line with South Gloucestershire Council’s Climate Change Strategy 2020-2030*

[*https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/2f6a99c0e8736dfa043ddfacdd8614aa/Climate-Emergency-Strategy.pdf*](https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/2f6a99c0e8736dfa043ddfacdd8614aa/Climate-Emergency-Strategy.pdf)

* *identifying significant health, ethical and environmental risks and opportunities associated with procurement projects and ensure they are addressed;*
* *requesting information from potential suppliers on how they will help environmental objectives as part of contract delivery, and take their response into account in tender evaluation*
* *mandating any health, ethical and sustainability objectives that have been identified in the tender specification*
* *ensuring that the health, ethical and sustainability objectives identified are embedded into the contract and included in any contact monitoring*

*https://council.southglos.gov.uk/documents/s156834/Appendix%203%20Climate%20and%20Nature%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan%20Year%206.pdf*

* *ensuring timber and wood-derived products are procured from legal, and sustainable sources*
* *strengthening local supply chains and promoting the use of local goods and services within the parameters of procurement legislation*
* *support the work of events to increase the provision of more sustainable (plant-based, produced/grown locally) and healthy food related requirements. Please refer to the separate healthy and sustainable food policy.*

See: [How to do business with us | BETA - South Gloucestershire Council](https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/how-to-do-business-with-us/#sustainable-procurement)

**CHECKLIST/DECISION MATRIX**: (Use this when assessing procurement bids)[[3]](#footnote-3)

Are costs above £5,000? Yes/No

If no, a lighter touch will be applied to assessment.

Does the contractor have their own environmental/sustainability policy which identifies major impacts they are tackling? Y/N

Will the purchase decision negatively impact vulnerable people locally./globally? Y/N

Will the decision negatively impact future generations, economically, socially, environmentally? Y/N

If so, to what extent (On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is minimal, 10 is very extensive)

Will the decision have a negative environmental impact in the short term including boioth local and global effects?

If so, to what extent ? On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is minimal, 10 is very extensive)

Does the contractor support the living wage?

Will the decision adversely impact modern slavery/ human rights?

Is BSTC happy for this decision to be scrutinised in public[[4]](#footnote-4)

*(Source: Frome Town Council Ethical Decision Matrix)*

**ETHICAL BANKING/INVESTMENT**

Covered in previous financial reports by RFO Rachel Pullen: Finance: Environmental, Social and Governance risk ratings: See: [*Company ESG Risk Ratings and scores - Sustainalytics*](https://www.sustainalytics.com/esg-ratings)

**Other sources/ references consulted:**

Frome Town Council: [Welcome aboard the Ethical Revolution](https://ethicalrevolution.co.uk/)

Gwynedd Council:<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/Documents---Council/Strategies-and-policies/Sustainable-procurement-policy.pdf>

Bridport Town Council : <https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/25-02-21-Ethical-Procurement-and-Investments-ENCL-3592.pdf>

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/files/documents/769-sustainable-procurement-policy/file>

**Adopted by Bradley Stoke Town Council on 12th March 2025**

1. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 – advice for commissioners and procurers Information Note 10/12 20 December 2012 <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/79273/Public_Services_Social_Value_Act_2012_PPN.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-procurement-policy-statement/national-procurement-policy-statement-html#social-value> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See also: [Guidance: National Procurement Policy Statement (HTML) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-act-2023-guidance-documents-plan-phase/guidance-national-procurement-policy-statement-html)

   *The NPPS is a statutory statement which allows the Government to set and communicate the wider policy objectives to which it expects public procurement to contribute. This might include, for example, objectives to increase skills or jobs in a certain industry or area, or to align with the pledge to achieve net zero by 2050. In 2021/2022 public procurement made up about a third of public sector spending; it can therefore have a large impact on the achievement of these wider objectives.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-procurement-policy-statement/national-procurement-policy-statement-html#social-value> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)