

Our League Life National Hub: Statement of Local Benefits and Social Value

Delivering Benefits and Social Value to the community is at the heart of the RFL's Our League Life Project.

The potential exists at two levels. Initially as a construction project and once operational, through the delivery of training and services to the community.

Our League Life National as a Construction Project

RFL is committed to delivering social value through the construction process of Our League Life National. For that reason, it selected the North West Construction Hub (established by MCC) as the mechanism to procure the works. This 'builds in' a social value component as all construction firms have been required to pre-qualify by demonstrating their capacity and commitment to delivering on social value through their construction process.

The NWCH statement on Social Value is as follows:

Manchester City Council (MCC) recognises the positive impacts that our suppliers bring to the communities of Manchester. The Council is keen to make sure that our supply chain contributes as much as possible to the overall wellbeing of our residents and we therefore include social value as part of the procurement process.

In 2015 the Council increased its weighting for social value considerations from 10% to 20%, meaning that all companies and organisations bidding for MCC contracts have to give social value serious consideration when putting tenders together.

The Guidance Note on Social Value that has been issued to contractors for Our League Life Invitation to Tender is attached as Appendix 1.

As a contractor is yet to be appointed, the exact social value and local labour targets cannot be defined. Both RFL and their appointed contractor commit to work with the Work and Skills Team to ensure that employment opportunities resulting from this development are made available. It is proposed therefore that a Condition is included as part of a Decision which requires the exact targets to be defined prior to commencement of construction.

Our League Life National Hub as a Training Centre

The development of Our League Life National Hub will be completed in Spring 2023 with the first with the first major student intake in September.

Its purpose is to capitalise on Rugby League Social Dividend Report (2017); using rugby league as the conduit to provide real world job related training to people from East Manchester and more widely.

The OLL Business Case states:

The Hub will be the focus for formal and informal education and training services in a Rugby League wrapper to the community. The centre will be set up with formal but flexible and adaptable learning spaces equipped to deliver to the highest standards

The potential curriculum base is orientated to sport but not exclusive however the Our league Life Hub will bring that learning into the real world with students able to deploy their sports nutrition or physiotherapy on international teams, or to use their digital technology skills using real match time coverage

Learner recruitment will be targetted naturally at the communities of East Manchester but intention is to attract learners from across Greater Manchester and also the near catchment of West Yorkshire.

At steady state operation the forecast is for there to be 150 FTE post 16 students annually benefitting from OLL Learning experience at Levels 2-4. It is estimated that 80% of these will be residents of Greater Manchester and the intention is that every single student will have improved employability skills from the experience.

Additionally on-site training on a daily basis will include 40 adult learners engaged in Short course/CPD such as referee or safeguarding training.

Appendix 1, Guidance Note on Social Value Issued to Tenderers

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 seeks to maximise the additional benefit and value that can be created by procuring or commissioning services, above and beyond the benefit of merely the services themselves.

Social Value in construction is the delivery of economic, social or environmental benefits to a community or individual above and beyond the project itself.

There is no authoritative list of what the benefits may be to the community or individual, this is very flexible. Social Value is best approached by looking at the individual needs. For example, in one area youth employment might be a concern, whereas in another area, lack of community engagement could be a more pressing need.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authorities (GMCA) have set out six social value objectives which they have agreed to deliver through commissioning and procurement activities. They are:

1. Promote employment and economic sustainability.
2. Raise the living standards of local residents.
3. Promote participation and citizen engagement.
4. Build the capacity and sustainability of the voluntary and community sector.
5. Promote equity and fairness.
6. Promote environmental sustainability.

Social value is about offering benefit to the local community and individuals. There doesn't have to be a great cost implication to deliver social value, in many ways this should be built in. To make this happen you need to:

- Consider social value as part of the whole project
- Can social value be written in as part of the brief?
- Ensure you have good collaborative working between the Client, Contractor and other stakeholders
- Ensure social value ambitions meet the requirement of the local community
- Think about the impact on the community and individuals following completion of the project
- Identify and prioritise what's important to your project

Social value is measured as one of the KPIs for the NWCH. This is broken down into 6 elements:

- Apprentice weeks
- Education activities – e.g. careers events and STEM activities
- Community activities – e.g. fundraising, volunteering and site visits
- Employment activities – e.g. upskilling unemployed people, work experience, advice and guidance
- Work experience – e.g. High school/University students, unemployed people, people looking for a career change/looking to gain new skills
- Training weeks – e.g. CSCS card compliance, Health and Safety training, internships, apprentices