NATIONAL SOCIAL VALUE AWARDS – 2023

Judging criteria



1.0 Social Value Champion Award - For an individual that has made a significant contribution to the Social Value debate and in developing best practice across all sectors

Demonstrate how the individual may have:

- Gone above and beyond 'business as usual'
- Inspired others (individuals or organisations) to change behaviours
- Worked collaboratively across sectors; public, private and civil society
- Worked to represent the views of under-represented groups of people
- Shown commitment to accounting for social value in a way that empowers stakeholders, transparency and independent verification of the results

2.0 Public Sector Leadership Award for an organisation- For a public sector organisation that is leading the way in embedding social value into their business culture, processes and systems to ensure the needs of their communities are being met.

Demonstrate how the organisation may have:

- Made a public commitment to embedding social value through its policies including corporate, procurement and planning
- Used social value data to inform decision making at the highest level
- Developed processes that directly address economic inequality, support for local businesses, community wellbeing and regenerating the environment
- Developed processes to listen, respond and promote the social challenges of the communities they work with
- Accounted for (including evidence) social value transparently and with independent verification of results (e.g. using the National TOMs)
- Been highly innovative in how it has embedded social value across the organisation including commissioning and procurement.

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3.0 Private Sector Leadership Award - For a private sector organisation that has led the way in embedding social value into their business culture via processes, systems and their people to ensure the needs of their customers and the communities where they work are being met.

Demonstrate how the organisation may have:

- Made a public commitment to embedding social value through policies or pledges
- Used social value data to inform decision making at the highest level
- Developed processes that directly address economic inequality, support for local businesses, community wellbeing and regenerating the environment
- Developed processes to listen, respond and promote the social challenges of the communities they work within
- Developed projects in support of local communities with evidence of impact
- Accounted for social value transparently and with independent verification of results (e.g. using the National TOMs)

4.0 Voluntary or Third Sector Leadership Award - For a third sector organisation that has led the way in embedding social value into the way in which they deliver their services and has made a significant impact on the needs of the communities where they operate

Demonstrate how the organisation has:

- Made a significant impact on the community it serves
- Embedded social value into its culture and processes
- Used social value data to inform decision making at the highest level
- Developed processes to listen, respond and promote the social challenges of the communities they operate within
- Accounted for social value transparently and with independent verification of results (e.g. using the National TOMs)

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5.0 SME Organisation Leadership Award – For a micro, small or medium sized business that has led the way in embedding social value into the way in which they deliver their services and has made a significant impact on the needs of the communities where they operate

(Note 'SME' defined as a business with less than 250 people and annual turnover less than £50m)

- Made a significant impact on the community it serves
- Embedded social value into its culture and processes
- Used social value data to inform decision making at the highest level
- Developed processes to listen, respond and promote the social challenges of the communities they operate within
- Developed project(s) in support of local communities with evidence of impact
- Accounted for social value transparently and with independent verification of results (e.g. using the National TOMs)

6.0 Social Innovation Award - An award for a business or project that takes a novel and creative approach to radically improve how social value is commissioned, delivered or managed. The winning project will need to show how it has been highly innovative in delivering its approach beyond concept stage and have a (at least short) track record of social value delivery. It may be an approach or methodology, a software solution or even a specific initiative that delivered far-exceeding outcomes to support communities who have been affected by the pandemic. This award has been designed to capture ideas that will inspire and evolve social value delivery.

Entries should demonstrate:

- How it has identified the need for its innovation
- How its solution is different from business as usual or goes beyond what would be normally expected
- Provides a way that empowers stakeholders
- Evidence that it has accounted for social value and has achieved transparency and independent verification of the results

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7.0 Project Awards - Projects that showcase best practice and have contributed to real change in communities, in response to the pandemic or 'business as usual'.

7.1 Best Private Sector Project Award – For a private sector organisation relating to a single project, building or contract that includes social value as a part of the award.

The winning projects may have achieved some of, or all the following:

- Demonstrated a clear understanding and implementation of social value (defined here as economic, environmental and social wellbeing and by Social Value Act (England), Procurement Reform Act (Scotland) or Wellbeing of Future Generation Act (Wales)) within its procurement processes
- Show that they have responded to local needs and priorities designing a solution that brings real change
- Been highly innovative in engaging with suppliers to make it as easy as possible to deliver
- Clear about the partners that you have engaged and delivered the project with including how you have taken steps to make it as easy as possible for SME and VCSEs to engage with the process
- Delivered above and beyond expectations
- Have measured and can clearly evidence the social value delivered (e.g. using the National TOMs)

'Projects' that

may be included within this category include

- A project commissioned by public sector through an ITT
- A new development or building or masterplan including its design
- A project or programme designed to deliver social value for the local community that may not have been commissioned but is an imitative of the organisation

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Judging criteria

7.2 Best Public Sector Project Award – For a public sector organisation that has commissioned or procured and single project or framework and have maximised the delivery of social value.

The winning projects may have achieved some of, or all the following:

- Demonstrated a clear understanding and implementation of social value (defined here as economic, environmental and social wellbeing and by Social Value Act (England), Procurement Reform Act (Scotland) or Wellbeing of Future Generation Act (Wales)) within its procurement processes
- Stakeholder involvement has led to customisation of the National TOMS or its chosen measurement framework
- Innovative way to invest in capacity building to deliver social value within the community including using the National TOMs to build partnerships with the supply chain or local community organisations
- Demonstrate new collaborations between sectors (e.g. local authorities, health, education, third sector and businesses)
- Innovative use of prioritisation weightings or sub-weightings within the National TOMs to align unlocked value to local needs and priorities
- Show that they have communicated clearly with the commissioning or design department of their organisation
- Show how the ITT or contract has been developed to reflect social value requirements
- Embedded social value into each stage of commissioning and procurement process at an early stage (market engagement through to contract award)
- Encouraged innovative and alternative ways to deliver additional social value
- Worked closely with the successful bidder to deliver social value
- Show how they have taken steps to make it as easy as possible for SME and VCSEs to engage with the process
- Delivered above and beyond organisational expectations
- Have measured and can clearly evidence the social value delivered* (e.g. using the National TOMs)

'Projects' may include

- Internal initiative
- An innovative way of commissioning
- Demonstrate the benefits of an affective procurement and contract management solution to deliver beyond expectations
- A new framework designed to engage more widely and deliver more social value
- Innovative approaches to engaging supply chain in the delivery of social value (e.g. Pre-formed programmes)

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7.3 Best Third or Voluntary Sector Project Award – For a third sector or voluntary sector organisation that has commissioned a programme designed to deliver social value for the local community.

The winning projects may have achieved some of, or all the following:

- Demonstrated a clear understanding and implementation of social value (defined here as economic, environmental and social wellbeing and by Social Value Act (England), Procurement Reform Act (Scotland) or Wellbeing of Future Generation Act (Wales)) within its procurement processes
- Show that they have responded to local needs and priorities designing a solution that brings real change
- Been highly innovative in engaging with communities and their core target constituencies
- Shown how you have engaged across sectors working closely with the private sector
- Demonstrate new collaborations between sectors (e.g. local authorities, health, education, third sector and businesses)
- Delivered above and beyond expectations
- Have measured and can clearly evidence the social value delivered* (e.g. using the National TOMs)

'Projects' that may be included within this category include

- A project commissioned by public sector through an ITT
- A project or programme designed to deliver social value for the local community that may not have been commissioned but is an imitative of the organisation
- Support for mental health and wellbeing programmes especially through the pandemic
- Innovative delivery of skills and training with clear outcomes and benefits
- Articulated how inequality and diversity are being addressed in the organisation
- Demonstrate who the organisation has engaged with it people and workforce with clear outcomes
- Demonstrate how the organisation has supported its people through the pandemic
- Innovative approaches to engaging people in the delivery of social value (e.g. volunteering programmes)