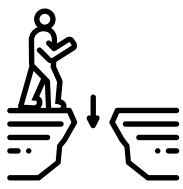




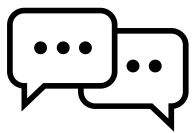
What Can Technology Companies Do To Create Positive Social Value?

There are many ways the public sector's technology suppliers can produce benefits that enhance society and support the tech sector across the UK. As the UK Government unveils its new Digital Strategy we're looking at what technology companies can do to create social value. Here are seven ideas for procurers that their technology suppliers could deliver.



Help to reduce the digital skills gap

Ask potential suppliers what they can do help strengthen the digital education pipeline, increase the digital skills base and upskill people living in your communities.



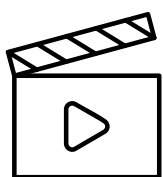
Help increase awareness about pathways into digital careers

Ask potential suppliers what they might be able to do to help raise awareness and encourage young people in your region into careers in the technology sector. This could mean targeted engagement initiatives or actively inspiring young people to get into tech by sending ambassadors into schools and colleges.



Advance diversity and remove barriers to ensure greater access to their workforces

Ask suppliers to evidence what they are doing to level the playing field. This might include apprenticeship schemes. Broadening their recruitment pathways to source candidates from non-traditional routes, creating employment and training opportunities for those with barriers to employment, upskilling workers later in their careers, kick-starter schemes, and equality-focused hiring policies.

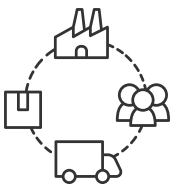


Take action to minimise their impact on the environment

Request evidence that the supplier has evaluated the environmental impact of their current processes and systems. Highlighting areas where they could be more sustainable; ask them to detail their problem areas and outline what action they're taking to address them.



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Take real action against Modern Slavery and ensure an Ethical Supply Chain

Ask your suppliers to detail the measures they take to minimise these risks. For example, can they provide a contract signed by all supply chain parties that guarantees they have met specific standards? Ask for details of the supply chain used in the contract delivery and evidence that they've conducted a supply chain risk assessment. You could also ask for more information about the company's policies to prevent forced or trafficked labour.

Procurers could also consider joining an organisation such as Electronics Watch, which offers public sector procurers independent monitoring of supply chains.



Actively work to reduce the Digital Divide

Suppose you are procuring a contract that involves digitising and moving public services online. Asking potential suppliers what action they will take to minimise digital exclusion and ensure nobody is left behind should be a critical social value requirement. Of course, what they can do will depend on the contract. Whether it's partnering with charities such as Citizens Online, which tackles digital exclusion, providing training for service users or supporting third-sector organisations that lack digital skills, there will be something.

There are many ways to ensure that you award contracts to a technology company promoting social value through all these avenues. Each of these seven pillars has the potential to make a massive impact on the environment, local communities, equality and wellbeing.

If you'd like to know more about how to evaluate businesses regarding social value, get in touch with Samtaler today.


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