

Social Value/Corporate Social Responsibility Guide 2024

A guide to aid businesses to shape their Social Value offers when tendering for contracts offered by Solihull MBC, and to help direct Corporate Social Responsibility activity. See our Social Value webpage and policy for further information - <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/business/social-value>.

TOM(s) (Themes, Outcomes and Measures):

NT70	Single-use plastic packaging eliminated through reusable packaging solutions or schemes (e.g. Loop or equivalent) on the contract
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Summary of delivery area:

The Council has several climate change and sustainability [ambitions](#) including its [Single Use Plastic \(SUP\) Strategy](#) (to be refreshed 2024) with the aim to be a SUP free organisation, and to support the borough in its transition to being SUP free. The council is looking to its supply chain to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use of SUP, as part of the borough's transition to being SUP free.

Some priority areas are:

1. Pledge to eliminate SUP from key areas of business (related to contract) through a public statement/declaration, for example to have a declaration on the website endorsed by a senior officer, with a supporting plan.
2. Produce a public report/statement on what is SUP used and how it is recycled/reused or has been eliminated, and how it contributes to the SUP Strategy. This could be stand alone or part of wider sustainability reporting.
3. Where SUP is essential, ensure all plastics are recyclable and sent for recycling using appropriate channels.
4. Engage staff, service users, residents and other stakeholders to support their elimination of SUP from the workplace, home or other setting.
5. Demonstrate innovation in the use of SUP products or their replacements in the contract or supply chain.

What can we do for you?

- The Climate Change and Sustainability can provide some guidance and signposting.
- The council can be a link to schools, community groups and businesses through its networks and current activity, for instance:
 - Love Solihull work with both community groups and businesses on a range of projects.
 - The council supports businesses in a number of ways and can link with groups such as the Solihull Sustainable Visioning Group.

Case studies/examples:

- Pledge to engage with the Circular Economy. More information at - [Ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-and-the-circular-economy-deep-dive](https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/plastics-and-the-circular-economy-deep-dive)
- Identify waste SUP and other materials for reuse by the community with organisations such as:
 - Birmingham Scrap Store take a variety of unusable materials such as wood/metal and fabric off cuts etc. <https://www.bpcn.org.uk/scrapstore/>
 - A good Thing – a matchmaking organisation connecting businesses with goods, products and 'waste' that other community organisations can use such as clothing, IT and furniture <https://www.agoodthing.org.uk/>

Below is some additional useful guidance from other organisations:

- WRAP Resources and Plastics Pledge <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/plastic-packaging>
<https://wrap.org.uk/resources/report/uk-plastics-pact-annual-report-2023/uk-plastics-pact-case-studies>
- Serco - Case study <https://www.serco.com/uk/social-value/case-studies/10-ways-to-reduce-plastic-pollution>
- A Guide to Reducing Single-Use Plastic
<https://sustainability.admin.ox.ac.uk/files/plasticreductionguidanceforlabs.pdf>