

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 16th April 2026

REPORTING OFFICER: Executive Director Environment and Regeneration

PORTFOLIO Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Policy Documents: Social Value in Planning SPD

WARD(S) Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval from the Board to support the adoption of the following document:

Social Value in Planning SPD

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) the Board approves the Strategy.**
- 3) the Board supports that editorial rights be retained to the Planning Policy team to remain aligned with changing national policy, and to align with changes in delivery models.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Local Plan for Halton currently comprises of the adopted Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (2022) and the Joint Waste Plan (2013). The statutory Local Development Plan is the set of Local Plans (also known as Development Plan Documents (DPDs) that together form the statutory basis for determining whether or not planning permission should be granted.

3.2 Supplementary Planning Documents add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on issues such as Transport and Accessibility or House Extensions. The production of such documents must meet the legal and procedural requirements but once adopted, SPDs are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

3.3 The Social Value in Planning SPD has clear links to local plan policy, including; Policy CS(R)1: Halton's Spatial Strategy, CS(R)7: Infrastructure provision and ED2: Employment development.

3.4 A scoping report was prepared in June 2025 and was consulted on during the summer. In March 2026 the full draft was then consulted on for 4 weeks, gathering 10 responses from both statutory consultees and internal stakeholders. The responses from this can be found in the accompanying 'Consultation Statement'.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Planning applications should normally be determined in accordance with the Development Plan.

"If regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the Planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise." [Section 38(6): Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004]

4.2 The Local Plan is a statutory development plan of a local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community, under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Local Plan is designed to provide broad and strategic policies. SPDs provide detailed guidance on the implementation of policies outlined in the Local Plan. This helps ensure that policy intentions are clear.

4.3 Given the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and emerging Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) the Planning Policy team are preparing to adopt the SPD to provide more guidance to internal and external stakeholders on the encouragement of Social Value contributions.

4.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides evidence that development should be supported in a sustainable way, particularly with regard to social objectives which 'reflect current and future needs and support communities health, social and cultural well-being'

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The adoption of the Social Value in Planning has no direct financial implications for the Council.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

Supporting greater independence has significant relevance, due to the opportunities for young people, particularly those of school leaver and college age, helping support early careers and skills development. Improving health and wellbeing is promoted through consistent work and employment.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

The local economy is supported by the encouragement of local employment, redistributing income into the local area. This can be built into the sustainable local economy, giving people the skills and opportunities they need for the future.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

The SPD significantly contributes to employment, learning and skills opportunities in the borough, by maximising the role of development in providing real, useful opportunities for local people in Halton. The SPD provides the examples of how young people are supported through this process.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

The Social Value SPD significantly applies to tackling inequality, by aiming to bridge the skills gap, promoting more skilled, higher paid employment. It helps those who are most in need by providing opportunities that may not have been available before.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

The Social Value SPD focusses on local employment opportunities, and prioritises local people and local businesses, appreciating and enhancing communities, through the construction and built environment sectors.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Supplementary Planning Documents provide up-to-date relevant information in support of the Local Plan and assists developers by providing clarity on topic area's therefore reducing the risk of a non determination.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Building stronger communities through community engagement and good planning is a key aspect of the Local Plan and its suite of supporting documents. The Council is already committed to equality regardless of age, sex, caring responsibility, race, religion, marital status, maternity issues, gender reassignment, socio economic need, sexuality or disability and these commitments are reflected in the Local Plan as far as is relevant. If necessary, Planning Policy

documents are subject to Equality Impact Assessments during their production to ensure compliance.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2025)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP 2022)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
Waste Local Plan (2013)	Municipal Building, Widnes	Rebecca Taylor
