

Sustainable Procurement and Sustainable Food

Peter Faill

Procurement Team Leader



- In 2013, the **Public Services (Social Value) Act** came into force.
- The Act places a duty on public bodies to consider, for every procurement over the EU threshold, how that procurement ***“might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area”***.
- The Act only applies to contracts for **services**.
- However, Durham’s policy since 2013 has been to apply it to all contracts – including those for **goods** and **works** as well as services.

Public Procurement and Social Value

- A basic principle of public procurement law forbids us from being biased in favour of local suppliers. We must treat all suppliers equitably.
- But on the other hand, we have a duty to use our procurement activity to ***“improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the (local) area”***.
- If we can't do that by simply choosing local suppliers every time.... then how can we do it?

Public Procurement and Social Value

- A basic principle of public procurement law forbids us from being biased in favour of local suppliers. We must treat all suppliers equitably.
- But on the other hand, we have a duty to use our procurement activity to *“improve the **economic**, **social and environmental well-being of the (local) area”***.

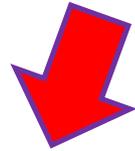


Economic well-being could be improved by:

- ✓ Creating or supporting local **employment** opportunities
- ✓ Ensuring procurement opportunities are accessible to **local bidders**, including SMEs, as possible
- ✓ Opening up further **supply chain opportunities** for local firms (including local food suppliers?)

Public Procurement and Social Value

- A basic principle of public procurement law forbids us from being biased in favour of local suppliers. We must treat all suppliers equitably.
- But on the other hand, we have a duty to use our procurement activity to *“improve the economic, **social** and environmental well-being of the (local) area”*.

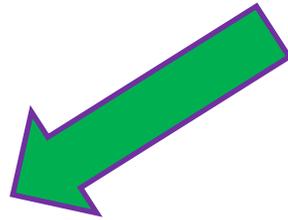


Social well-being could be improved by:

- ✓ Supporting **training** opportunities for **disadvantaged** groups such as disabled persons, long-term unemployed, and ex-offenders
- ✓ Ensuring procurement opportunities are accessible to **third sector** organisations and **social enterprises**
- ✓ Engaging the support of suppliers for wider community initiatives.

Public Procurement and Social Value

- A basic principle of public procurement law forbids us from being biased in favour of local suppliers. We must treat all suppliers equitably.
- But on the other hand, we have a duty to use our procurement activity to ***“improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the (local) area”***.



Environmental well-being could be improved by:

- ✓ Reducing the **CO₂** impact of the contract
- ✓ Ensuring sustainable sourcing of goods
(specifying sustainable fish for example!)
- ✓ Reducing **waste** associated with contracts
(including, for example, food waste)

“What’s all this got to do with sustainable local food?”

Public Procurement, Social Value.... and Sustainable Local Food?

- Despite the restrictions sometimes imposed by procurement law, Durham County Council, and some of our partners, have had a commitment to sustainability in procurement for some time.
- We have been able to secure a number of successes both in terms of **local supply chain**, and wider food sustainability.

Case Study: School Catering

- In 2013 we went out to tender for a contractor to provide **school meals** in over 200 primary schools in County Durham.
- Key to the tender process was an assessment of the added value that could be offered by bidders – over and above the core provision of healthy meals for pupils at a competitive price. There was a particular focus on seeking commitments to use local produce, reduce food waste, and create and support targeted employment and training opportunities.
- The successful bidder, **Taylor Shaw**, committed to several added social value initiatives, including...



Case Study: School Catering....

- Subsidising the cost of **meals for nursery pupils** and working with schools to increase school meal uptake, seeking to ensure that all young children sit down to a healthy, cooked meal during their school day.
- Supporting **apprenticeships** (and shorter **work placements**), and working with the Council's Employability Team to deliver these.
- A requirement that all meals would be based on **fresh** food from raw ingredients, cooked daily on site.
- A commitment to increase in the proportion of **local, seasonal produce** being used.
- A commitment to reduce the amount of **waste** by 60% over the lifetime of the contract.

Working in Partnership

Working in Partnership

- Despite the restrictions sometimes imposed by procurement law, Durham County Council, and some of our partners, have had a commitment to sustainability in procurement for some time.
- We have been able to secure a number of successes both in terms of **local supply chain**, and wider food sustainability.
- Driving this is a partnership approach through the **County Durham Food Partnership** using the “Food Durham” brand.



Working in Partnership

- Food Durham partners include:
 - ✓ Durham County Council
 - ✓ Durham University
 - ✓ County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
 - ✓ Durham Community Action
- A number of County Durham farms and small food retailers are also represented on the Board of the partnership. Engaging the people who actually grow and produce food locally, and understanding their needs and concerns, is an important part of the approach.
- Working together allows us to share best practice, collaborate to develop standards, and engage pro-actively with local food suppliers and producers.
- More information at www.fooddurham.net

Case Study: Sustainable Fish Cities



- The world's fish stocks are under pressure, and many species of fish are threatened due to unsustainable fishing.
- Fish stocks can recover if they are sustainably managed. To make this happen we need to stop buying fish caught using unsustainable methods.
- The Council and our **Food Durham** partners have committed to making Durham a "Sustainable Fish City" – part of a national campaign by Sustain, the Marine Conservation Society and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).
- This involves working with fish and seafood suppliers to ensure we are not buying any unsustainably sourced fish products – using **MSC-certified** fish wherever possible, and avoiding products on the Marine Conservation Society "**fish to avoid**" list.

Case Study: Sustainable Fish Cities

- The Sustainable Fish Cities campaign awards a “star” for achieving sustainable fish sourcing in five catering sectors:

- ★ Local Authority and School catering

- ★ Hospitals

- ★ University and Higher Education establishments

- ★ Iconic local restaurants and food businesses

- ★ Workplace Canteens

Case Study: Sustainable Fish Cities

- The Sustainable Fish Cities campaign awards a “star” for achieving sustainable fish sourcing in five catering sectors:

- ★ **Local Authority and School catering**
- ★ **Hospitals**
- ★ **University and Higher Education establishments**
- ★ **Iconic local restaurants and food businesses**
- ★ **Workplace Canteens**

So far Durham has achieved **four** stars – only the second city in England to achieve this level. We hope to achieve all five stars by April.

Other steps towards Sustainable Food

- The Council has recently updated its **Sustainable Procurement & Social Value Policy** to include a commitment to support the County Durham Food Partnership's **Sustainable Local Food Strategy**.
- We have established a clear **Sustainable Buying Standard** for food, published on our website for suppliers to see, which commits us to:
 - ✓ Ensuring high standards of animal welfare, including **free-range eggs**,
 - ✓ Giving additional preference to **seasonal** produce (helping limit food miles),
 - ✓ Specifying **fairly-traded** foods where relevant,
 - ✓ Continuing to respond to opportunities to include **local** producers in the supply chain,
 - ✓ Sourcing **sustainable fish**, and supporting the Sustainable Fish City campaign for Durham City.

Any Questions?

