

Responsible Procurement Statement

Introduction

About us

Our strategy

Our values

Our People

Our Role

Purpose & Scope

To set out a statement of guiding principles and undertakings as part of our environmental, social and governance arrangements, which collectively enable positive outcomes to be realised through our procurement and supply chain arrangements, supporting our strategic aims, civic commitments and wider national and global goals

Principles

As a university we will:

- Recognise the important contribution that our suppliers and partners make to our economic, environmental, social and ethical performance
- Undertake our procurement and contracting in a way which is fair, open, proportionate, transparent and in line with our values
- Achieve value for money through applying criteria which considers the best mix of quality and effectiveness, including relevant economic, environmental, social and ethical requirements, for the least outlay
- Be ambitious and strive to actively champion and continuously improve our performance by proactively engaging and working collaboratively with our students, workforce, suppliers and civic, place and wider partners
- Monitor and benchmark our progress using common standards, targets, and outcome measures and publicly report on our achievements
- · Listen and act on the feedback we receive

Environmental Sustainability

Together, through working with our suppliers and partners we will:

- Proactively deliver our Climate Action Strategy to reduce our overall emissions including the ambitious target to deliver net zero on direct Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030 and significantly reduce indirect Scope 3 emissions by 2038
- Identify and prioritise opportunities to deliver positive climate action
 outcomes such as delivering an efficient and sustainable campus,
 enhancing biodiversity; reducing air travel in favour of more sustainable and
 active travel options, set ambitious targets on recycling reducing waste,
 printing and water use; and creating a more sustainable catering offer

- including sourcing locally where possible; procuring 100% green electricity as standard and completely electrify our fleet of university vehicles by 2024
- Collaborate with other anchor organisations and civic, place and wider partners to support our communities to take action and advancing new knowledge and leadership to tackle the challenge towards a more sustainable future for our region

Economic & Social Benefit

Together, through working with our suppliers and partners we will:

- Encourage and facilitate entrepreneurship, innovation and supplier
 diversity through our procurement practices and strive to remove barriers
 that restrict local businesses, micro, small and medium sized enterprises,
 community sector organisations, diverse enterprises and underrepresented groups from entering the supply chain
- Stimulate opportunities for new and small businesses to grow, supporting economic growth, student and graduate startups, business creation, jobs and knowledge exchange through research and innovation partnerships
- Provide meaningful work-related learning, placements, apprenticeships, training, education, skills and other employability opportunities for students, people who face barriers to accessing the employment market and businesses challenged with skills shortages
- Contribute to tackling health inequalities, partnering with local communities to address specific health challenges
- Strengthen our support to local voluntary and charitable organisations within the community
- Pay suppliers, sub-contractors and supply chains fairly and in line with recognised prompt payment codes

Ethical Practice

Together, through working with our suppliers and partners we will:

- Embed equality, diversity and inclusion throughout the procurement and contract lifecycle
- Safeguard and protect human rights, health, safety and wellbeing throughout the supply chain and undertake due diligence to promote good employment practices to help guard against modern slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, child labour and other forms of abuse
- Drive improvement in the conditions of workers by promoting the codes of practice published by ACAS, Living Wage Foundation, Ethical Trading Initiative, Electronics Watch and other recognised bodies
- Ensure that effective management systems and practices are in place to prevent criminal activity, such as money laundering, terrorism, terrorism financing, fraud, bribery and corruption

- Protect privacy and personal information
- Commit to the Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct
- Take effective action where a material shortfall is identified in the performance or conduct of a supplier