

**PPN 01/21 – Scoring
Social Value - Case Study
– Agency Workers**

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (the Housing Executive) procures a vast array of supplies, works and services. These requirements are procured, in the main, by way of competition in line with Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP) and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy (NIPPP) is approved by the Northern Ireland Executive and is mandatory for central government Departments, Non Departmental Public Bodies and Public Corporations.
- 1.2 Procurement Policy Notes (PPNs) are the means by which the NI public sector is advised of procurement policy. These guidance notes are approved by the Northern Ireland Procurement Board and in turn become part of NIPPP. In July 2021 Construction Procurement & Delivery (CPD) published Procurement Policy Note 01/21 – Scoring Social Value. This Policy Note has been revised with the most recent version being issued by CPD on the 06 October 2022. This case study describes how the Housing Executive has implemented the requirements of PPN 01/21 when advertising, evaluating and eventually awarding a Framework Agreement for the Provision of Agency Workers to the Housing Executive.
- 1.3 The Framework Agreement was advertised seeking bids for three Lots: Lot One – Admin & Customer Contact Roles; Lot Two – Building Trade & Manual Roles and Lot Three – Technical & Professional Specialist Roles.
- 1.4 The Housing Executive appointed eight agencies on to the framework for Lot One, seven on Lot Two and ten on Lot Three.

2 PPN 01/21 Requirements

- 2.1 The key requirement for the Housing Executive in PPN 01/21 was to include a minimum of 10% of the total award criteria to score Social Value.
- 2.2 As per the requirements of PPN 01/21, and due to the estimated value of this procurement exercise, the Social Value Points based approach was adopted and social value responses were allocated up to 10% of the available score. This meant that the Contractors on each Lot of the Framework Agreement must provide Social Value to a minimum value of 100 social value points for every £1 million (and pro-rata) of the annual contract value, capped at an averaged invoiced value of £3 million per annum.

3 Framework Agreement for the Provision of Agency Workers

- 3.1 The Housing Executive required the provision of Agency Workers, as defined by Regulation 3 of the Agency Workers Regulations (Northern

Ireland) 2011 (AWRs), to provide cover both for ongoing structural change projects as well as business as usual requirements such as cover for internal secondments, sickness absence, maternity leave or additional workload.

3.2 To comply with the requirements of PPN 01/21 the Housing Executive included a social value question within the tender evaluation process which had a weighting of 10% of the total award criteria set (the remaining score was based on 30% quality and 60% cost). The Housing Executive also requested that tenderers submit a Social Value Delivery Plan to clearly outline how they would meet the Social Value requirements of the competition.

3.3 The Housing Executive stated that the Social Value Themes and Indicators that would apply to this Framework Agreement would be as follows:

- Theme 1 – Increasing Secure Employment and Skills:
 - Indicator 1.1 – Create Employment, retraining and other return to work opportunities for those furthest from the labour market;
 - Indicator 1.4 - Support in-work progression and educational attainment in the workforce, including training schemes that address skill gaps and result in recognised qualifications, to help people to move into higher paid work by developing new skills;
 - Indicator 1.7 - Create opportunities for entrepreneurship and help new, small organisations to grow, supporting economic growth and business creation.

- Theme 4 – Promoting Wellbeing
 - Indicator 4.1 - Support the health and wellbeing, including physical and mental health, in the contract workforce;
 - Indicator 4.3 - Promote equality, diversity and inclusion in the contract's workforce.

3.4 The agencies that attained a place on the Framework Agreement submitted a response to the set social value question, along with a Social Value Delivery Plan, outlining which Themes and Indicators they would provide to ensure they met the Social Value requirement of the Framework Agreement.

4 Outcomes

- 4.1 All agencies that attained a place on the Framework Agreement will provide an element of Social Value based on the invoiced value of the services they have provided. Each agency will have to submit evidence that they are meeting their Social Value requirements and update the Strategic Investment Board's Social Value Monitoring System.
- 4.2 An example of some Social Value initiatives the agencies have committed to providing during the Framework Agreement period are listed below:
- Paid employment for people who face barriers to employment or are from deprived areas – provided to the Housing Executive via the Framework Agreement;
 - Unwaged work placements for people who face barriers to employment or are from deprived areas (4 weeks FTE);
 - Develop an In-work Progression and Skills Development Strategy with proposed annual updates;
 - Inclusion of Social Enterprises in their own supply chain;
 - Develop a Health & Safety Strategy with proposed annual updates.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Housing Executive has successfully introduced social value targets to our new agency worker framework which a number of agencies have committed to delivering. In addition, we have also now introduced social value to a range of other contracts and will continue to do so in accordance with PPN 01/21.