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PPN 01/21 – Case Study 1: Scoring Social Value in NI Water

1. Social Value pre-publication of PPN 01/21

NI Water has been putting social value at the heart of their activities for many years. From their core service of delivering clean safe water and wastewater services for their customers, employing people through NI Water’s apprenticeship academy, educating pupils across Northern Ireland on the water lifecycle, restoring peatland and building a solar farm, to committing to plant 1 million trees within the next 10 years, Social Value is embedded right across the organisation.



Social Value in NI Water Tendering

Social Value has also been at the fore of NI Water’s tendering operations, with Social Value clauses having been incorporated in service contracts for a number of years now. Some examples of where NI Water’s contractors have delivered Social Value include:

C1034 Buildings and Above Ground Assets Maintenance and Repair

Lot 1 - Lowry Building and Civil Engineering – 9 New Entrant Trainees recruited



Lot 2 - CTS Projects – 1 new Entrant Trainee recruited; Skills development policy and environmental policy submitted



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C1085 Grounds Maintenance Lot 2 – SPR McGowan – 79.9 weeks of Paid Employment to a New Entrant; 1 week of work experience; fair work policy and practices submitted.



C1007 Fleet Management Services – NI Trucks – 79 person weeks of Paid Employment delivered by New Entrant Trainees



C936 Water and Wastewater Networks Services

Lot 1 – Meridian Utilities – 3 New Entrant Trainees recruited



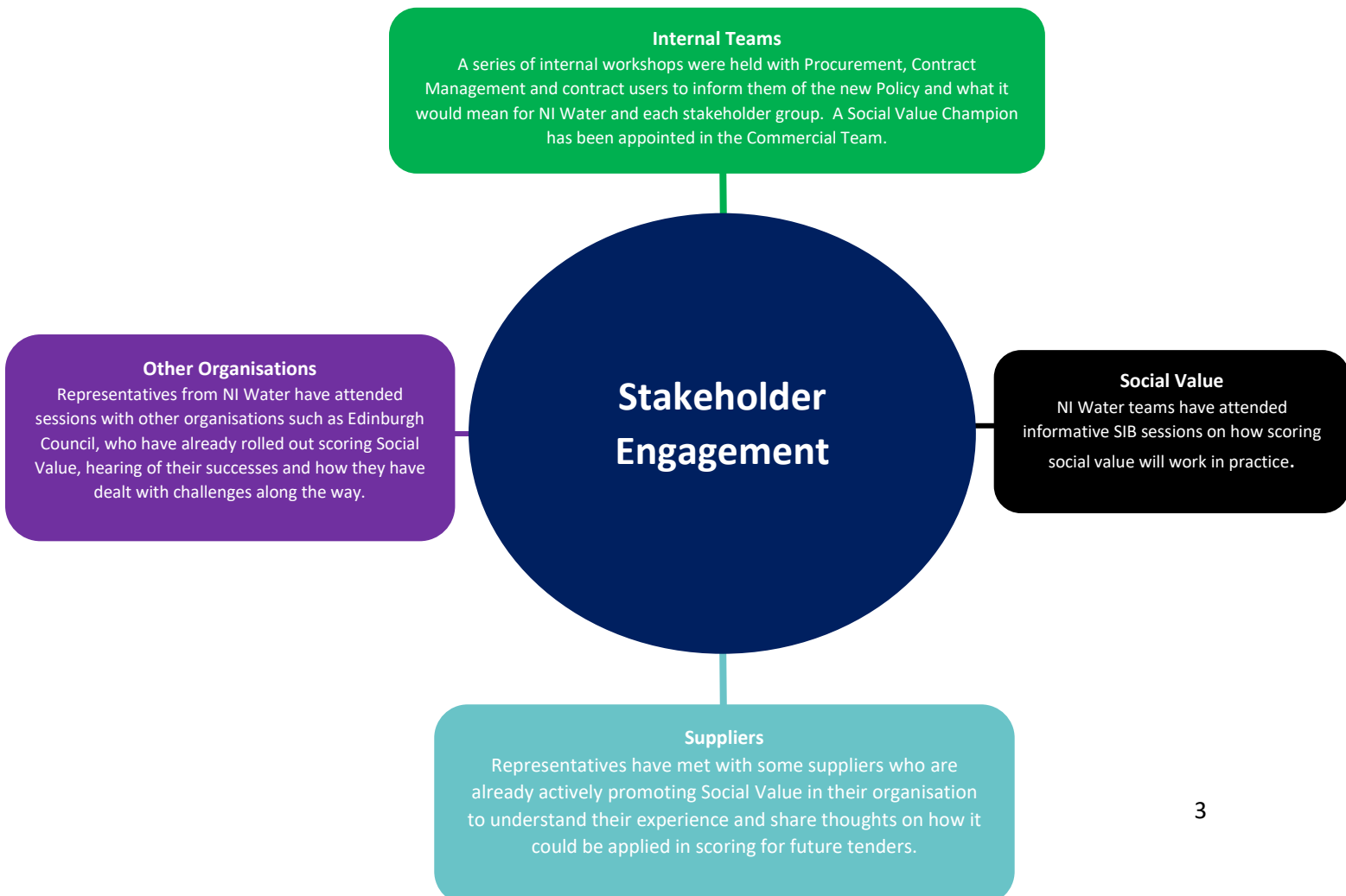
Lot 2 – McAllister Bros. – 2 New Entrant Trainees recruited



2. Approach to implementing PPN01/21

Stakeholder Engagement

Following the publication of PPN 01/21 in July 2021, NI Water undertook several activities in way of preparing to implement this Policy.



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Furthermore, NI Water have organised a Supplier Event on 30 June 2022 to inform the wider supply base about the Policy, demonstrating how NI Water are embracing the Policy, and showcasing what level of support is available to support the supply chain in incorporating Social Value in their future bid submissions.

Process

NI Water have reviewed their procurement and business processes, in light of the new Policy. NI Water's Specification Template has been updated to include:



The contractor shall comply with the following requirements throughout the life of the contract:

- i. Compliance with relevant employment, equality and health and safety law and human rights standards;*
- ii. Adherence to relevant collective agreements;*
- iii. Adoption of fair work practices for all workers engaged in the delivery of the contract. Fair work is as per the Carnegie Trust definition and contains 7 measurements. They are i) terms of employment, ii) pay and benefits, iii) job design and nature of work, iv) social support and cohesion, v) health, safety and psychological wellbeing, vi) work/life balance and vii) voice / representation*

NI Water's Business Case Template is currently being updated to include a section on Social Value consideration.

Pilot

In preparation for the full adoption of PPN01/21 on 01 June, NI Water carried out a Pilot for Scoring Social Value in the procurement of a Cleaning Services contract in March and April. The key takeaways from this exercise have been:

- Market Engagement is key – at a minimum use SIB Pre-procurement engagement questionnaire
- Use SIB for support for queries
- Help & support bidders, we want to educate not exclude
- Remember the ultimate goal is delivering Social Value

Feedback from bidders was very positive, all keen to deliver and even over deliver on Social Value.

“We are privileged to be the first supplier in NI Water to have had Social Value scored in our tender. The support and guidance provided by the NI Water team made the process of incorporating Social Value in our bid very straightforward. We now look forward to delivering this Social Value for NI Water and the wider community during the life of this contract.”

Mount Charles – NI Water's cleaning contractor

3. Concluding Thoughts

With strong foundations in place and a Social Value ethos already embedded across NI Water's business and commercial activities, NI Water are looking forward to fully implementing PPN01/21 Scoring Social Value in our contracts.