

## 4.12 SOCIAL VALUE POLICY

### 1. General Statement

At Homegrown Timber Group, both as an employer and a provider of services, we support communities and encourage growth to deliver community benefits and social value. We assist our customers to maximise social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities in accordance with The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

We are committed to:

### 2. Local Business & Economy:

- Providing work opportunities for small and micro-sized businesses, social enterprises and minority owned businesses.
- Procuring goods and services locally where possible.
- Supporting small and micro-sized businesses, social enterprises and minority owned businesses to improve capability and grow sustainably.
- Creating and sustaining local jobs
- Diverse employment strategies
- Apprentices and trainees
- Work placement schemes for schools and colleges
- Training opportunities for our own staff or work-experience
- Taking people out of unemployment
- Providing career advice and/or mentoring
- Using local suppliers, voluntary groups and agencies
- Promoting social value in our supply chain e.g. using suppliers who operate apprenticeship schemes, have ISO 14001 certification where practical.

### 3. Employment and Skills:

- Enabling local people to obtain the skills needed to access employment
- Providing our employees with new skills for the future
- Creating employment opportunities within the communities that we work
- Removing barriers to employment in the arboricultural industry for underrepresented and disadvantaged groups
- Offering employment opportunities to those who serve or have served in our armed forces

### 4. Community Interaction:

- Support opportunities of environmental regeneration to meet local needs
- Working with local charities on key themes to deliver additional benefits to the communities in which we work
- Working with education and training providers and industry bodies to offer curriculum support and work experience opportunities
- Supporting our people to live healthier lives

### 5. Environment:

- Using resources efficiently to reduce waste and maximise value
- Playing our part to reduce air pollution, noise, vibration and nuisance within local communities to improve health
- Promoting sustainable and ethical procurement
- Promoting green and blue space and increasing biodiversity net gain in recognition of the social value this brings
- Reducing carbon footprint/pollution and improving air quality e.g. electric chainsaws, reducing mileage, energy-efficient equipment
- Decreasing congestion e.g. vehicle-sharing
- Minimising waste e.g. re-use and recycling
- Using environmentally friendly goods
- Saving energy e.g. energy efficient lighting and equipment
- Sustainability e.g. FSC timber products
- Operating an ISO 14001 environmental management system or similar
- Helping improve public spaces e.g. Forestry Commission land and parks

6. **Social:**
- Supporting local charities
  - Helping local community groups (e.g. amateur sports clubs or social groups) – financial or any other support
  - Ethical suppliers
  - Community engagement e.g. involving local residents
  - Promoting social integration e.g. work opportunities for disadvantaged people
  - Supporting local culture and heritage
  - Volunteering
  - Supporting a healthier community e.g. promoting staff well-being
  - Supporting crime reduction on the railway
  - Helping to reduce homelessness
7. **Governance, Measurement & Reporting:**
- Maintaining clear accountability for delivering this policy
  - Monitoring our social value impact
  - Continuously improving our standards, efficiency and effectiveness

We will communicate this policy to our employees, supply chain partners and relevant interested parties as appropriate. The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by the Management Review Process.

This policy will be regularly reviewed (minimum annually).

Signed on behalf of Homegrown Timber Group



Timothy Lawrance  
Managing Director  
June 2023

Review Date: June 2024