

Social value in action

BUSINESSES SIGN UP TO CHARTER



Businesses have already begun signing up to the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility. Although it's early days, the response so far shows that businesses understand the benefits to themselves, their employees and the local community.

The Charter is Birmingham City Council's (BCC) response to the Social Value Act and is part of the council's Social Value policy.

It's a set of guiding principles which aim to boost the local economy through support to the local supply chain, creation of job opportunities and ensuring employees are paid a fair wage.

The aim is to maximise the social value the council obtains from its £1billion purchasing power and make that money work as hard as possible for the economic, social and environmental benefit of Birmingham's citizens.

As well as adhering to the principles itself, Birmingham City Council is inviting its contracted suppliers, the wider business community, other public sector bodies including schools and third sector organisations, as well as grant recipients, to adopt them too.

BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS CHARTER

Those signing up to the charter have agreed to the following:

- **Local Employment:** to create employment and training opportunities for local people, especially in target areas
- **Buy Birmingham First:** to take account of the social and economic impacts of buying locally when commissioning and contracting, thereby reducing unemployment and raising the skill level of the local workforce. Businesses will be expected to advertise their contract opportunities on the council's supplier portal **Finditinbirmingham** for local suppliers to bid for.
- **Partners in Communities:** to play an active role in the local community and community support organisations, especially in those areas with the greatest need.
- **Good Employer:** to support staff development and welfare and adopt the Birmingham Living Wage within their own organisation and within their supply chain.
- **Green and Sustainable:** to commit to protecting the environment, minimising waste and energy consumption and using other resources efficiently. These commitments will also apply to their supply chain.
- **Ethical Procurement:** to commit to employing the highest ethical standards in their own operations and those within their supply chain.

Awareness sessions for businesses who wish to find out more about the charter, and what it means to them, are currently being held at Finditinbirmingham breakfast meetings.

For more information contact:

Birmingham City Council, www.birmingham.gov.uk
Finditinbirmingham, www.fnditinbirmingham.com