

Corporate and Social Responsibility in Procurement Policy

CSR is defined as the integration of business operations and values, whereby the interests of all stakeholders including investors, customers, employees, the community and the environment are reflected in the company's policies and actions

Commitment

We are committed to:

- Continuous improvement in our Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) programme;
- Encouraging our business partners to strive for matching performance;
- Acting in a socially responsible way;
- Continually improving our performance and meeting all relevant legislation;
- Educate & train key staff on Sustainable procurement and Poverty awareness.
- Embrace the principles of "Buy Right"

Purpose and Aims

- The purpose of the policy is to make clear to all stakeholders what we mean by CSR and how we propose to work towards achieving it. The CSR policy applies through all areas of Procurement and governs our approach to our activities;

In implementing this policy we aim to:

- To be responsible;
- To be an exemplar of good practise.

Standards of business conduct

- We recognise that good CSR embraces all aspects of sustainable development and the way we affect people through our business operations;
- We will assess which social issues are of most relevance to the contract and decide at what stage in the procurement lifecycle this social policy could most effectively and legally be included;
- We shall operate in a way that safeguards against unfair business practices;
- We believe that a responsible approach to developing relationships between companies and the communities they serve, global or local, is a vital part of delivering business success;
- When carrying out a procurement exercise, in a consultation with our customers, we will determine the environmental, social and economic issues;
- Our contracts will clearly set out the agreed terms, conditions and the basis for our relationship;
- We will continually review our policies and business practices to encourage engagement with small and medium enterprises and to promote the development of the regional supply chain (see 'Purchasing Team Commitments to SMEs').

Corporate Governance

- We will share and declare information on personal and corporate conflicts of interest and seek guidance from higher authority before acting;
- We are committed to ensuring that our business is conducted in all respects according to rigorous ethical, professional and legal standards;
- All the laws that regulate and apply will be complied with;
- We endeavour to ensure that stakeholders have confidence in the decision-making and management processes of Procurement, by the conduct and professionalism of all staff. We do this by continually training and developing our staff;
- All groups and individuals with whom we have a business relationship will be treated in a fair, open and respectful manner;

- Competition will be reasonable and based upon the quality, value and integrity of the products and services being supplied;
- Feedback on performance will be actively sought, and we will continually review all activities to ensure best practice is observed at all times;
- We will allow our customers and suppliers to give feedback on our performance and ensure that all customer comments are analysed, responded to and where appropriate, acted upon;
- An Action Plan will be developed to ensure continuous improvement is achieved.

Environment

- Our objective is to endeavour to reduce our impact on the environment through a commitment to continual improvement;
- We will continue to work with our suppliers to reduce their impact on the environment;
- We are determined to assess production, use and disposal associated with the main goods we use;
- Our customers will be informed of the key issues involved in procurement so they can make informed purchases to reduce their impact on the environment;
- We will ensure that paper and wood products used come from forests independently certified as well-managed according to the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), or from recycled materials.

Human Rights

- We aim to support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights;
- Suppliers must observe international human rights norms within their work.

Equality and Diversity

- We aim to eliminate discrimination on any grounds and promote equality of opportunity in the supply chain;
- We will ensure that our customers and suppliers are able to work together in confidence and be treated with respect by each party;
- Our range of contracts will take account of the needs of a diverse customer base.

Sustainability

- A Sustainable Procurement Policy will be maintained that will set out the principles, policies and procedures on which sustainable procurement activity within UWE. The policy can be viewed at <http://www.uwe.ac.uk/finance/purchasing/supplierinfo/environment.shtml> ;
- The policy will act as a prompt to staff to consider sustainability as a factor in all purchasing decisions;
- We seek to minimise the adverse environmental effects of people travelling to and from our offices.
- Where appropriate sustainability criteria will be incorporated within tender evaluations.

Impact on Society

- We will take steps to understand how we can most effectively support the needs of the local community and implement initiatives accordingly;
- Our impact on the local and wider community will be understood and nurtured;
- Dialogue with local communities shall be encouraged for mutual benefit.

Ethics and Ethical Trading

- We will ensure clear visibility through our supply chains, so we know where all our products are made;
- Training will be provided to relevant people on environmental and social issues affecting our supply chains;
- We will ensure that suppliers uphold the workplace standards and behaviours consistent with the University's requirements.
- Follow recommendations on Poverty Aware product information sheets and Issue matrix

Biodiversity

- We actively encourage the use of sustainable practices in the maintenance of University grounds and premises.

Suppliers

- Suppliers will be worked with to help us achieve our policy aspirations in the delivery of our products and services;
- We shall encourage suppliers to adopt responsible business policies and practices for mutual benefit;
- Suppliers are regarded as partners and we will work with them to help us achieve our policy aspirations in the delivery of our products and services;
- A documented environmental and social assessment will be undertaken for every new contracted supplier;
- We are committed to ensuring that the welfare of workers and labour conditions within our supply chain meet or exceed recognised standards;
- If suppliers fail to comply with this policy, we will exert procurement pressure to ensure that they behave in a socially responsible way. This includes environmentally-friendly products and making sure that workers are treated properly;
- Where appropriate, our tender specifications include questions to reflect our desire for sustainable procurement;
- We hold regular meetings with suppliers to support these ideas;
- We will continue to work with suppliers to:
 - Promote more environmentally friendly products and promote these to our customers;
 - Reduce the amount of packaging and transit where possible;
 - Implement schemes to take-back, recover, re-use and recycle products at the end of their use/life.



Vice Chancellor



Chairman, Sustainability Board



Head of Procurement

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