

- ✓ Enabling greater engagement
- ✓ Supporting growth
- ✓ Boosting visibility
- ✓ Maximising collaboration

What is The Social Partnership Portal?

The **Social Partnership Portal** is an online portal to bring social suppliers and buyers together and maximise social value within construction projects across the industry.

We believe construction should have a social conscience not just by creating greener spaces but by making sure the things we buy, and the way we build creates opportunities and strengthens communities. By sourcing and engaging social suppliers on The Social Partnership Portal, buyers can evidence their social and sustainability outcomes, boosting social value across communities.

Background:

As national procurement guidance increasingly encourages the use of socially responsible organisations in public sector construction, it's more important than ever for us to make this process quick, simple, and easy.

In response to this and demand from their social enterprise working group; a two-year collaboration between some of the UK's leading construction and infrastructure contractors chaired by Wates, SCAPE identified the need for a platform that would bring buyers and suppliers together, and enable stronger collaboration.

Founder Members



Key benefits for buyers:

- Increasing buyer confidence: Shared industry knowledge
- Building relationships with suppliers: collaboration between buyers and suppliers
- Maximising social value and sustainability outcomes: Boost social value across communities
- Aligning to national procurement best practice: Drive compliance and governance

Who's involved?

The **Social Partnership Portal** was procured by SCAPE who remain actively present in the portal's future direction. Powered and developed by Local Supply Chain and supported by Supply Change, the portal's supplier verification service ensuring our buyers can source socially focussed suppliers.

The portal has over 20 founding members proactively supporting this new initiative including Wates who played a critical part in the procurement process.

Overview of the Social Partnership Portal Criteria

This portal categorizes suppliers into 4 different levels each with their own criteria. Bronze is the first level and platinum is the highest.

The differences between each category are highlighted by the below table:

Categorising social enterprises

CATEGORY	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
Clear social and / or environmental mission stated on website and / or social media sites (minimum requirement)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clear social and / or environmental mission in governing docs			✓	✓
Environmental Sustainability statement or policy (minimum requirement) AND	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social statement or HR policy, e.g. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and / or local employment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social and / or environmental reporting, e.g. local employment, waste etc		✓	✓	✓
Non-exec governance in place		✓	✓	✓
Grant-based income	> 50%	> 50%	< 50%	< 50%
Diversity of ownership e.g. female, BAME, Veterans, ex-offender, disabled, care leaver, homeless etc.	✓			
Profit reinvestment (as stated in governing docs and / or evidenced in accounts)	> 0% < 50%	> 5% < 50%	> 50%	> 50%
Self-verified (only)	✓			
Contractor-verified		✓	✓	
Expert-verified				✓

Upon joining the portal, you will be asked to complete your profile to achieve Bronze status, all the information required to reach Bronze status is self-declared. To achieve Silver or Gold status your profile needs to be verified by a contractor using the portal.

Once your organisation has achieved Gold status, your profile will then be independently verified by the Supply Change team in order to reach the highest platinum level.

We'll now take a closer look at each criteria, providing a breakdown of what is required and resources to help

Useful resources:

Purposely- this tool helps organisations with company limited by shares structure embed their purpose into their articles

Simply Legal: All you need to know about legal forms and organisational types: For co-operatives and community owned enterprises

Selnet: Social Enterprise Toolkit, Workbook 2 Legal Structures for Social Enterprises

Mission Statement

What is required:

Platinum- Social and/or environmental mission statement in articles

Gold- Social and/or environmental mission statement in articles

Silver- Social and/or environmental mission statement on website

Bronze- Social and/or environmental mission statement on website

What to include:

A mission statement allows organisations to understand how social enterprises deliver impact. Mission statements should explain the social or environmental aim of your organisation and who you seek to benefit.

To achieve gold and platinum status, your organisation must have a social or environmental purpose statement written into your governing documents. This should be inserted into the objects clause of your organisation's Articles of Association. Your articles should also include an operational commitment that ensures a substantial proportion of your organisation's operations are used to further your social or environmental purpose.

Policies

What is required:

Environmental sustainability policy- All levels

Social/HR policy (Equality and Diversity)- All levels

Policy documents ensure that buyers can see your organisation is managed effectively and according to legislation.

Important information to include:

When developing your policies you should make sure they are compliant with environmental and modern slavery legislation

Each policy should include a commitment to educate and train employees within your organisation on the policy and a commitment to monitoring progress and reporting externally

A named member of staff should be responsible for enacting the policy and they should be kept up to date on an annual basis or whenever changes are required.

Make sure to check the expiration dates of any policies before uploading them to your profile

Useful resources:

[Policy templates from Voluntary Action Islington](#)

Ni Business Info- [free business templates, forms, letters, policies and checklists](#)

[Practical Law In-house](#), Business policies: an overview

Impact

What is required:

Platinum, Gold and Silver-Evidence of social and/or environmental reporting

Bronze- Not required

Social enterprises must be transparent and how they operate to deliver their impact and who their impact benefits. Reporting on the outcomes of your organisation's work helps to articulate your impact to buyers and allows social enterprises to track the progress they have made against their mission. Impact can be communicated through your organisation's website and in an annual impact report.

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Useful resources:

[What to include in your social impact report](#)

[Pioneer's Post- How good is your impact report?](#), Jess Dagers

NPC, How to Write an Impact Report

Governance

What is required:

Platinum, Gold, Silver- Evidence of non executive governance in place

Bronze- Not required

A non-executive board can help social enterprises to govern themselves efficiently and transparently and are a great way to bring further expertise and accountability into your organisation. The portal requires organisations to provide evidence of their non-executive board members either through their website or companies house profile.

Useful resources:

[5 tips on building a social enterprise board](#)

[The Governance Hub- For Love and Money Governance and Social Enterprise](#)

[SEE Ahead: Managing a social enterprise](#)

Funding and Profit reinvestment

What is required:

Platinum-Grant income <50% of total revenue, >50% of profits reinvested

Gold- Grant income <50% of total revenue, >50% of profits reinvested

Silver- Grant income >50% of total revenue, >5<50% of profits reinvested

Bronze- Grant income >50% of total revenue, >0<50% of profits reinvested

Useful resources:

[School for Social Entrepreneurs](#)

What funding is available for social entrepreneurs?

[Grant Nav- 360 Giving](#)

[Funding and investment guidance | Good Finance](#)

