

**SOCIAL
VALUE**
POLICY

Purpose

Our Social Value Policy articulates our commitment and approach to ensuring we deliver positive and sustainable social, environmental and economic impacts in the communities in which we operate. This policy applies to all stakeholders involved in Ashe projects, including: all employees, consultants, sub-contractors, customers, and any third parties.

Our Commitment

The Social Value Act 2012 encourages public authorities to consider economic, social and environmental well-being when commissioning and procuring services. As a company we recognise that every project offers a valuable opportunity to actively engage with members of the public such as pupils, students, local residents and hard to reach groups and young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). Our commitment to the Social Value Act is also incorporated into our Sustainability Policy and wider Corporate & Social Responsibility Agenda.

Our approach to every construction project is to not only focus on ethical and environmental building processes, but to also look at how each project impacts the local community to include initiatives that will leave a lasting legacy for all stakeholders involved. Throughout each project our teams aim to:

- embrace key stakeholders as part of the team
- support organisations and education providers (schools, colleges, universities) through educational activities
- be transparent and raise awareness to local community of the project's goals to gain their buy-in and thus ensure long-term engagement in the project.

Measuring our impact

We are committed to measuring the impact our initiatives have on improving society, our supply chain and the environment, including:

- **Community engagement**

Ashe registers all projects with the Considerate Constructors Scheme. The scheme encourages construction companies to:

- care about their appearance
- respect the community
- protect the environment
- secure everyone's safety and value their workforce.

Our in-house training and guidance documents assist our project teams to gain consistently high scores when externally monitored by the scheme. We are also monitored through our participation in Considerate Constructors Scheme's "Good Neighbour Questionnaire".

- **Apprenticeships**

Ashe is partnered with TrAC (Training and Apprenticeships in Construction) - an employer-led CITB funded initiative that helps companies to engage apprentices in contracts, and maximise vocational training and mentoring opportunities in the south east of England. Ashe has a similar arrangement with Futures based in Nottingham for their projects throughout the East Midlands.

- **Responsible procurement**

We use our 'AsheForce' Approval process to select our suppliers and sub-contractors with their on-going performance monitored by our Procurement Team.

Management of our supply chain is essential for the successful delivery of our projects and a central feature of our ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 accredited quality procedures.

- **Reducing environmental impact**

Each project we work on has a dedicated Sustainability Action Plan to ensure we maintain our high standards with regards to our supply chain and reduce carbon, water, waste and environmental incidents, which can result in significant short and long-term benefits. The plan also targets the interaction and learning required by the client throughout the project including stakeholder meetings, on-site training, on-site educational visits, stakeholder engagement ceremonies, toolbox talks etc.

- **Charitable donations and in-kind support**

We work closely with our charity partners Extramile Challenges, North Herts Sanctuary, Bloodwise Lutterworth, British Heart Foundation and the Alzheimers' Society which allows us to record the impact that our charitable donations have on the local and wider community.

Targets and Reporting

We set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) on an annual basis and monitor these throughout the year, reporting internally to our Management Board.

We report our impact externally via our annual Social Value Impact Report/CSR Report.

To ensure we maintain and enhance our standards we share best practice with all stakeholders through newsletters, email shots, lessons learned meetings and by incorporation into our policies and procedures.

Governance

Our commitment to helping local communities and the environment plays a key role in driving improvement in our business. Our teams work closely with external partners and supply-chain members to help drive improvements throughout each project, provide training and input innovative solutions into the construction methodology to minimise our impact on the environment.

Our Business Development Director continually monitors our impact and benchmarks us against our peers and the wider industry to identify improvements in our approach to maximising society improvements, reduce environmental impact and create economic sustainability.



Robin Blake
Managing Director

February 2017



Head Office

Ashe House, Cooks Way, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 0JE,
T: 01462 630 630 E: hitchin@asheconstruction.co.uk

Midlands Office

Unit 6, St John's Business Park, Rugby Road, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4HB
T: 01455 886 120 E: lutterworth@asheconstruction.co.uk

www.asheconstruction.co.uk



**building
better**