

What is 'Buy Social'?

'Buy Social' is a way to maximise the benefits from public procurement in terms of personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, equal opportunities and sustainable development.

It is a principle adopted by the Department of Finance's Procurement Board and asks that people responsible for public purchasing should consider how they can do this in a way that delivers additional benefits for Northern Ireland's people and communities, especially those with the greatest needs.

One of the primary ways that social benefit has been achieved through public procurement is Targeted Recruitment and Training.

What is Targeted Recruitment and Training?

Contracts that include Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T) clauses require contractors to ring-fence a proportion of waged positions for "new entrant trainees".

"New entrant trainees" are people who lack the skills and experience to compete for and sustain a job through the labour market e.g. because they have no substantial work experience (such as school or college leavers) or long-term unemployed people with no experience in the sector they are seeking to join.

Why is 'Buy Social' necessary?

'Buy Social' is driven by the 2010 Sustainable Development Strategy for Northern Ireland and supported by the Programme for Government's commitment to include social clauses in public procurement. It is also endorsed by the Department of Finance's Procurement Board.

To find out more visit www.buysocialni.org or email info@buysocialni.org

