



The UK's professional
services solution.

Social Value Report 2022



bloom

Total Social Value created:
£37,628,000

Local spend

**£36.6
million**

total value

88%

suppliers with
SME status

£5,800

in charitable
donations

£4,600

in volunteering
contributions

£127m

invoiced to local
suppliers

£143

mentoring
hours

100

volunteering
hours

£4,200

university
project

£984,320

total value
created

37

jobs created
across the
business

About this report

This report sets out the social value that Bloom has created from 1st September 2021 - 31st August 2022 for the NEPRO³ Framework and has been calculated using the National TOMS Framework.

The first procurement company to gain level 2 Social Value UK certificate



Throughout year three of the NEPRO³ contract we have continued to create an impact and enable some amazing opportunities and outcomes for our customers.

We've helped our customers to overcome any difficulties they may have had in understanding, tendering, recording and reporting on social value outcomes and impact.

We've provided access to an extensive marketplace of suppliers of all sizes with a significant number from the small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) community, offering excellent opportunities to help deliver social value objectives.

Social Value continues to be a huge focus for us and ensuring that we are helping our customers to deliver on their social value goals and objectives through our framework has been and will continue to be a main priority for us.

Throughout this year, **we have given back millions to the public sector**, supporting re-investment back into the local communities and areas in which we are delivering projects. This has allowed them to create local job opportunities, upskill their teams, support current and vital projects, as well as giving them the opportunity to focus on the current key priorities for the public sector.

Local Spend

Total Value: £36,600,000

During the past year, our supply chain has continued to grow with a staggering **88% of those accredited suppliers being of SME status.**

Over **£127 million worth of invoices have been paid out to local suppliers** and those numbers continue to grow daily. Working so closely with the local supply chain has allowed us to drive much needed growth back into local economies from the public purse.

Through our dynamic marketplace of suppliers we are proud to continue to support procurement opportunities for all 3rd sector organisations, such as SMEs, mutuals, charities and social enterprises.

Our solution has continued to deliver impact to local economies, allowing for the selections of local suppliers to deliver projects, harnessing the finest talent from across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

88%

suppliers with
SME status

Local spend

£36.6
million
total value

£127m

invoiced to local
suppliers

Charitable Donations

Total Value: £10,400

We've donated and fundraised over **£5,800** for the following causes:

CHANGING LIVES

Changing Lives is our chosen charity for 2022. They believe that everyone deserves a safe home, a rewarding job, a life free from addiction and abuse. They also believe that given the right support, anyone can change their life for the better. By focusing on someone's strengths, potential and opportunities, they have helped over 12,500 people overcome their problems and live safe, successful and independent lives each year.

We have helped and supported Changing Lives with events such as their **charity golf competition**. All proceeds from the event went to fund services to help people facing challenges such as rough sleeping and substance misuse, in order to build a positive future within the local community.



We pledged a **£2,250 donation to Mind**, which was doubled through match funding and helped towards **The Mind Safe Space Service**.

The service helps to improve mental health and wellbeing by providing the opportunity for people to join a supportive peer group. Here they can meet others who have mental health issues who may be able to help using examples from their own experiences.

Charitable Donations

Total Value: £10,400

Feeding Families provide relief to any person experiencing poverty, primarily in north east England. They do this through the provision of food, education, and other resources which they could not otherwise afford.

The Bloom team got together at Christmas of 2021 and spent a few hours at Feeding Families in Blaydon packing food parcels for families in need.

Teamwork at its best for such a great cause !

We also donated £1,250 to Feeding Families in Blaydon which went towards the purchasing of essential food items used in their Christmas food parcels for families who were experiencing food poverty and needed a little support.

We supported and donated to the Ukraine Red Cross appeal during a gravely concerning time for all involved. Lives were lost, homes were destroyed, families were separated and essential services, like water and healthcare, were under threat.

The people caught up in this conflict needed to be supported and protected, so **we donated £1,000 to the charity**. We also shared links to the funding page in the hopes of raising awareness and making a difference for those people that really needed our help.

The work that the Red Cross were able to deliver as a result of our donation, as well as others, meant that those affected received food, water, first aid, medicines, warm clothes and shelter.



New jobs

Total Value: £984,320

We opened up 37 jobs across all functions of the business during the third year of the NEPRO³ contract. Our people are our best asset and we believe in their talent. They're passionate and care about what they do and can thrive in a culture built on hard work and team spirit, where they can add real value.

£6,200

apprenticeship
programme

121

mentoring
hours

37

jobs created
across the
business

Apprentices

Total Value: £6,200

Blooms Apprenticeship programme commenced on 1st September 2019, where we opened up opportunities for individuals to gain a career in procurement.

Formal training as well as a mentoring and a buddy scheme is provided to all individuals throughout their apprenticeship and beyond, as well as the continuous on hand support and guidance from the entire team.

Our procurement apprentice, Jordon Suttle successfully gained his CIPS Level 4 Diploma in Procurement and Supply. He was also offered a fantastic opportunity with Newcastle University.



Real Living Wage Employer

Bloom is proud to be an accredited Living Wage Employer. This means that every employee working for us will earn a real Living Wage.

The real Living Wage is higher than the government's minimum, or National Living Wage and is an independently calculated hourly rate of pay that is based on the actual cost of living. It is calculated each year and is announced by the Living Wage Foundation as part of Living Wage Week.

Thousands of organisations, including Bloom, voluntarily choose to pay the real Living Wage because we believe that a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay.

This commitment applies to not only to our direct employees but also to our third party contracted employees. The Living Wage movement has benefited hundreds of thousands of families by enabling them to earn a wage they can live on.



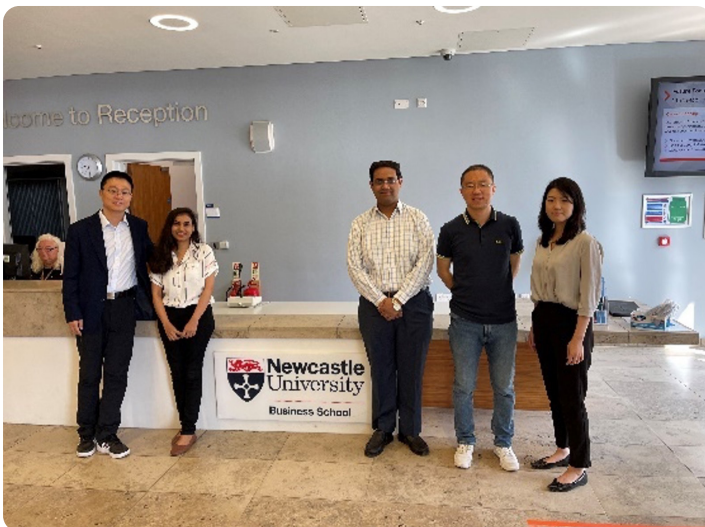
University Project

Total Value: £4,200

Members of the Bloom team worked with the Newcastle University Business School (NUBS) MBA students on their management consultancy module. The MBA students, each with a minimum of three years significant managerial or technical work experience, worked on a live problem relating to Carbon Reduction for the Public Sector Supply Chain and the road to NET Zero for Bloom.

The aim of the project was to develop students' skills in consulting, building on their prior learning and technical knowledge, whilst researching and developing proposals to present to senior stakeholders at Bloom.

The students hard work and dedication to the project was outstanding and we couldn't have been any prouder of them. It was such a pleasure to have had the chance to work with such hard working, innovative students.



Health & Wellbeing

Total Value: £8,800

At Bloom we strongly value the importance of the Health and Wellbeing of our employees.

One of our four pillars in our 2022 People Strategy focuses on the health and wellbeing of our people.

We do our best to help equip and educate our people to understand the importance of their own physical and mental health both inside the workplace and whilst at home.

This year we launched Hive HR, an employee engagement portal which ensure our people have 'a voice' in the workplace. During 2022 we launched two surveys, a full engagement survey and a pulse survey focusing on stress in the workplace. Both surveys included questions relating to health and wellbeing which as a result have helped inform our future plans. To support our plans and to evidence our commitment we have also introduced a Wellbeing policy.



All employees have the option to enrol in our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), which offers a fantastic range of benefits including:

- Cash back on their spend on elements of their health care
- A 24 hour helpline service. This includes telephone counseling and face to face counseling sessions if required

Even those employees that don't opt in, still get access to the EAP counseling service.

We encourage all employees to have 'Meeting Free Wednesdays' where diaries are blocked out from 13:00 onwards and we strongly encourage this to be their focus time. With the fast paced ,busy environment that we all work in this helps to try and take some of the pressure off individuals and catch up on work if necessary.

Health & Wellbeing

Total Value: £8,800

Social Catchups are a weekly occurrence where employees are paired with other colleagues from across the business they wouldn't normally speak to outside of their direct team.

The benefits of the catchups have only been positive and have helped to boost our wellbeing, especially during lockdown when most people were feeling isolated. This has enabled us to get to know our colleagues on a more personal level and keep in touch with those that we wouldn't normally.

To support our employee's financial wellbeing, we introduced a cash back prepaid card which allows our people to earn up to 15% with every use.

Flexible working, including compressed hours and part-time working patterns as well as flexibility to be able to do school runs, attend appointments or have an early finish. These are all part of the programme and we encourage our employees to do what is best for them to gain that work life balance. Our hybrid working policy lays out the option to our employees around working from home or the office.

All employees can take up to 25 days annual leave, plus the 8 bank holidays and the option to buy up to 5 days, paid back over 12 months. Everyone gets an extra day for their birthday, as well as up to an additional 4-days leave for long term service.



Our **cycle to work scheme** is available for all employees to join through the Green Commute Initiative. This scheme helps to promote physical fitness, mental wellbeing and of course, has zero impact on the environment, therefore helping towards our goal of becoming a Net Zero business by 2045.

Bloom Carbon Emissions Report

NFCCC Race to Zero Pledge and Plan

We partnered with Net Zero International to complete our first-ever annual carbon certification and build our plan to be Net Zero 2050.

We recognise the importance of making a full and lasting commitment to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from our activities, in support of the wider commitment of the world to limit global temperature increases and the impact on the planet.

We are at the beginning of our transition to become a Net Zero business and we pledge to taking action and working with our colleagues, suppliers and clients to collaborate and reduce our carbon footprint.

Our Journey to Sustainability

As we grow, we continue to develop a deep understanding of the social and environmental benefits of a sustainable business. Moving into year 4 of the NEPRO³ framework, Sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) at Bloom will become one of our core missions and an essential part of our company identity – this is how we will achieve our mission, vision, and purpose.

Our team understands the transformational impact our activities can have on our communities, our people, our marketplace and our environment. Through our emerging ESG delivery programme, we will make certain we operate and grow in a sustainable, ethical and responsible way.

The business has undertaken work to align our ESG objectives with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and we plan to begin reporting against these in 2023.