WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER BY DEPUTY H.L. JEUNE OF ST. JOHN, ST. LAWRENCE AND TRINITY QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2024

Question

"Will the Minister detail how social values and ethical purchasing are integrated in the Government procurement process, and the weighting given to these matters and value for money requirements; and will he explain whether there is any plan to evaluate this process and if so, when, and if not, why not?"

Answer

The Government procurement process includes policies and procedures that place an importance on sustainability and social value commitments. It also aims to ensure value for money from contracts and service providers.

The process ensures procurement is not just focussed on the bottom-line price or cost of services and goods but takes into account the wider value of contracts to the community over time, maximising the economic, social and environmental benefits for Jersey.

Since 2023, tenders issued by the Government procurement portal with a value of more than £100,000, have included a weighting for Social Value (which should equate to at least 10% of the total contract value) in the Evaluation process.

The contract management process monitors that the social value commitments – principally economic, environmental and social benefits - are delivered. Examples of social value include switching to use of biofuels in transport and heating of buildings. Economic and social contributions have included sponsoring local students to gain IT skills at Highlands College, which enabled them to gain work experience with the Government. Another supplier donated 250 laptops for reuse within our education and higher education establishments.

In 2024 the Government aims to continue developing a social value measuring tool to enhance reporting in the social value area.