

Sustainable Procurement policy

Introduction

Our purpose is: *'Making sustainable living a reality, building strong communities'*.

The Group is determined to be the leading sustainable national housebuilder. We believe that fundamental to building quality homes is building a positive environmental, social and economic legacy for future generations. Sustainability presents opportunities for business prosperity and growth, encourages innovation and resilience, and improves our products and customer experience.

We purchase significant volumes of materials, and work with many sub-contractors across the UK. Sustainable sourcing of materials and labour is critical to the delivery of our strategy.

Objectives

We are committed to continuously safeguarding the environment and maintaining good labour relations by:

- Working with suppliers, contractors and supply chains to minimise the negative environmental and social impact of the materials, services and labour within our operations and supply chain that are integral to our business; and
- Developing commercial relationships with partners that embrace sustainable practices and spread best practice through the supply chain.

This Policy sets out a framework that we expect our supply chain partners to apply

and relates to both the products/services they provide to us and the operating activities that they and their respective supply chains are engaged in.

Policy

The key elements of our Policy relating to suppliers and subcontractors are:

- Suppliers must ensure compliance to all mandatory legislation that affects their activities and those of their own supply chain;
- Suppliers must conform to the specific requirements of our health, safety, environmental, quality and responsible sourcing requirements as set out in our Trade Specifications; and
- Suppliers must maintain Health and Safety and Environmental Management Systems that are of a suitable standard for the operations they are engaged in. As a preference, organisations should gain certification to ISO45001 and ISO14001.

Suppliers must maintain an ethical sourcing policy, or other policy, that aims to ensure as a minimum that:

- All statutory legislation (in their country of operation) is adhered to;
- Working conditions are safe and healthy; No child, forced or slave labour takes place and the requirements of the International Labour Organization's conventions are complied with;
- All employees are paid a real Living Wage which is the hourly rate set by the Living Wage Foundation, is based on cost of living and is higher than the legal minimum;

- No individual is expected to work excessive hours; and
- There is no discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, skin colour, gender, sexual orientation, age or other protected characteristic.

Our suppliers and subcontractors must be prepared to demonstrate how they monitor compliance with these requirements on request.

We will use sustainability criteria including environmental & social impact, quality and price in the assessment and selection of future supply sources.

We will include appropriate sustainability criteria in our tender and contract documentation. Where materials can be ethically sourced (and are economically viable and have equivalent quality and technical performance to alternative offerings), a preference will be given to materials that:

- a) Have a recycled content;
- b) Minimise ecological damage and declines in biodiversity;
- c) Have low embodied carbon as demonstrated by an appropriate method such as an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD);
- d) Utilise less resources and less virgin material by design;
- e) Can be re-used, recycled or recovered;
- f) Minimise packaging waste;
- g) Minimise the use of water;
- h) Use local resources; and

We will provide training for our internal procurement teams on a risk basis. This policy underpins our Group Sustainability, Climate Change and Environment Policies, and is supported by our Timber Sourcing Policy.

This policy is reviewed annually and is approved by the Group Board. It is communicated to key stakeholders and is available on our website.

David Thomas
Chief Executive
22 October 2024