

Social issues in catering procurement



Where are the boundaries?

Mo Baines, Principal Advisor

Government policy



Value for money

“Optimum combination of whole-life cost and quality to meet the user’s requirement, as defined in chapter 22 of Government Accounting”

Social labels

The European Commission has defined the term social label as “words or symbols on products which seek to influence the purchasing decisions of consumers by providing an assurance about the social and ethical impact of a business process on other stakeholders”



Permissive framework?

New EU public procurement directive provides:-

- Sheltered employment workshops
- Use of social and environmental clauses in procurement
- Power of Community Well Being in Local Government
- New Equalities duty
- Corporate social responsibility policy
- Workforce skills

Limitations and ways around



- EU rules on non discrimination to other member states
- More likely to be de-minimus
- Relevant to performance of a contract
- Skills and training e.g.
- Plans for apprenticeships and training and equivalent qualifications
- Environmental without it being 'local'

Fair trade



- Fair trade can be lawfully specified under advertisements and invitations to tender but...
- Never specify solely fair trade or fair trade logo to tender - not permitted under EU law
- May be relevant to the contract criteria for 'value for money'
- Sales of goods to staff effectively excluded so staff vending machines could be fair trade so too a concession without penalty

Training and skills



- **Ask a supplier for skills of staff where relevant to the performance of contract**
- **Food hygiene training**
- **Basic literacy and numerically skills - ordering good by telephone?**
- **Needs to be relevant to the performance the contract**
- **Apprenticeships**



Questions

Thank you!

LOCAL SERVICES

LOCAL SOLUTIONS



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