

The importance of social value - how to win work with main contractors

Helping SMEs understand why Constructionline Gold is a crucial part of our supply chain

Constructionline is a recognised and established scheme for the construction industry that provides access to a UK-wide network of companies, both suppliers and those that wish to procure services and products. It is built on customer-driven innovations and will connect businesses to national and local buyers, with the benefits of saving time and money and improving speed across the prequalification process.

There are four levels of membership, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. These provide a variety of benefits, to you, including a searchable and accessible company profile that is based on a common assessment standard and membership verification. This includes financial information, compliance levels and the management of quality, health & safety and environmental systems, social value commitment and more. It also gives you the ability to search for and match to, work opportunities. Now, more than ever, it is important that supply chain members are viewed as being stable, financially robust, and competent, as well as demonstrating their important and essential credentials.

Supporting our supply chain partners has always been an important factor for main contractors, with the emphasis of SMEs (small to medium enterprises) and VCSEs (voluntary, community and social enterprises) growing over the past few years. The benefits that a good supply chain bring are fundamental to not only business growth but also to growing local economy. With an average company database of over 5,000 suppliers across the UK, managing and supporting supply chain can be challenging.

By being part of Constructionline it allows Contractors to reduce risk and remain compliant, whilst reducing time and cost for supply chains during tender processes. It also allows for a benchmark within the industry, ensuring peace of mind for our businesses, our supply chain and our clients. Additionally, it allows for a consistent benchmark across the industry, ensuring high standards across the board.

From a social value perspective, Constructionline gives us the ability to monitor and review data on businesses, enabling us to support the sustainability and growth of smaller companies and new start-ups. Through live Constructionline dashboards we can review supplier business data around information on their equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) staff numbers. It also allows us to review policies they may have around modern-day slavery, and their own internal social value processes. The questionnaire also supports businesses to expand on their social value offering by breaking the questions down into sections, allowing us a real insight into their values and also highlights areas that they may need support. By doing this it allows us to work with local supply chain collaboratively, to share best practice and ensure we get the maximum social impact within the communities we work in. Constructionline is a straightforward and cost-effective way to put your business before the UK's largest network of construction buyers - and give them all the information they need to select you for their next project. To become a member, go to: www.constructionline.co.uk/products-services/.

However, if your business is a social enterprise, you can benefit from FREE Gold Level Constructionline supplier membership and FREE SSIP accreditation with Acclaim. If you think your business might be eligible for this, go to <https://www.constructionline.co.uk/products-services/social-enterprise/> to complete the supplier form.