Community Impact Assessment



Supporting Britain's economic development

Why does it matter?

The rail industry is vital to Britain's economy. Over 1.6 billion passengers use the rail network each year, and freight usage has increased by 10% in the last decade. Network Rail is currently making the biggest investment in railway infrastructure since Victorian times.

Economically, it provides a vital network for business, supply chains and investment within and between cities. Socially, railways deliver value directly through creating employment, and indirectly through being a catalyst for socio-economic development across regions.

Suggested activities

Below are some suggested activities you could deliver to support Britain's economic development.

- Work with your procurement team to recruit local labour and purchase through local SMEs (small and medium enterprises).
- Consider local economic development as part of the design phase; this could include allowing space for social enterprises alongside a new station design or looking at increasing retail spaces for local businesses.
- Invest in skills creation for economically deprived areas; this could include supporting work experience opportunities locally, or allowing additional apprentices or traineeships on site.

How do you measure success?

Implement and monitor activity that results in evidence of increased trading opportunities for UK businesses (particularly small companies) and/or increased job and skills development opportunities for individuals. Also consider demonstrable contribution to regional or national economic performance.

Key performance indicators

- Number of local suppliers sourced
- % of local spend
- Proportion of local labour (defined by home postcode) working on the Network Rail contract as % of total labour
- Proportion of SMEs (0-150 employees) working in the supply chain as % of total suppliers
- Number of apprentices or trainees employed as part of the project, or work experience opportunities offered.