

Local Community Commitment Policy

Design Works (Cumbria) Ltd is committed to supporting local communities through responsible purchasing and by prioritising work with local and independent clients. This policy sets out how we embed local economic contribution into our operations and decision-making.

This policy applies to all purchasing decisions, client engagement activities and operational planning across the business.

1. Commitment to Local Procurement

Designworks commits to purchasing core products and services from independent suppliers local to where the company operates or where the product or service will be used.

Where feasible, we aim for at least 50% of non-labour operational expenditure to be directed to local and independent suppliers. This may include, but is not limited to, printing services, office supplies, professional services or technical support providers.

Supplier selection considers quality, reliability, security and value, alongside location and independence. Local supplier use is recorded annually through internal procurement records and reviewed by the Managing Directors as part of governance oversight.

2. Commitment to Serving Local and Independent Clients

Designworks is committed to supporting the local economy by prioritising work with local and independent clients.

We aim for at least 75% of our active client base to consist of local and independent organisations, including small businesses, charities, social enterprises and purpose-driven organisations operating within our region or comparable local markets.

This commitment supports sustainable local economic development, strengthens community resilience and ensures our services remain accessible to organisations with limited internal digital capacity.

3. Monitoring and Review

Local procurement spend and client composition are reviewed annually using internal records. Findings are used to inform future purchasing and business development decisions and are retained for audit and verification purposes.

4. Responsibility

The Managing Directors are responsible for implementing this policy, reviewing progress and ensuring alignment with the company's wider social and environmental objectives.