Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Framework

1. Introduction

Teesside University stands strongly for social inclusion and has always been committed, in principle and in practice, to the economic, social and cultural success of the communities that it serves. When Teesside became the winner of the Times Higher Education's University of the Year Award in 2009/10, the judges singled out the University's commitment to working with communities and businesses, making it "the public benefactor par excellence". Our commitment to corporate social responsibility is now reflected and codified in this document.

Elements of corporate social responsibility include community engagement, employee respect, support for human rights, extension of environmental good practice, and application of ethical conduct in investment. The focus of this Framework is "Community Engagement" because the University's commitment to other aspects of corporate social responsibility is outlined elsewhere, including:

1. The Statement of University Values (and related Polices and Procedures);

2. The Environmental Policy (and related Policies and Procedures);

3. The Ethical Investment Policy;

4. The Policy & Procedure on Assessing Ethical and Reputational Issues pertaining to Overseas Police and Armed Forces.

2. Community Engagement Framework

The University will contribute in various ways to the economic, social and cultural success of the communities served by the University, including:

1. Supporting local business by actively forging and developing links with businesses; by fostering enterprise, business incubation and business innovation; by facilitating placements/internships and KTPs within the curriculum; by providing support for a number of businesses who employ the University's graduates; and by ensuring the prompt payment of invoices.

2. Contributing to the third sector by providing support for a number of social enterprises and other charitable organisations which employ the University's graduates.

3. Promoting opportunities for student volunteering, (and associated fundraising), in support of community projects, thereby broadening the student experience.

4. Engaging with schools and colleges in the Tees Valley, fostering wider participation in higher education.

5. Engaging with community groups as requested, including supporting social events which are relevant to achievement of the University's mission.

6. Participating in activities associated with the communities directly adjacent to the campuses of the University, (including engagement with Community Councils, Town Centre Partnerships, Residents Associations, and other organised community groups), and encouraging the suggestion of proposals to support, enhance and develop the University's community engagement.

7. Making University sports facilities available for community groups when not required by students; and providing student expertise as volunteers in relation to various aspects of sport, including coaching.

8. Making University meeting rooms available for community groups when not required for University activities.

9. Creating space and opportunity for cultural activity to be displayed, promoted and performed; and providing a forum for dialogue on issues relating to culture in the Tees Valley.

10. Ensuring that the campuses of the University are welcoming for visitors, and that information about the University is easily accessible for all enquirers.

11. Working in partnership with Middlesbrough Council and Darlington Council (the Local Authorities in which the University has a campus), jointly sponsoring projects to enhance the facilities available for the general use of students, staff and residents.

12. Providing an inclusive experience for international students in the local context (e.g. by members of local communities mentoring international students); and facilitating international and intercultural awareness among students, staff and other members of the community

13. Undertaking research projects proposed by, or relevant to, local and regional communities, (including those relating to regeneration, disadvantaged groups, and environmental problems) where a source of funding is available.

14. Showcasing the University's work across the Tees Valley, engaging local communities in University activities, either on campus (e.g. Public Lectures) or in the community (e.g. contributing to public exhibitions and arts events).

15. Promoting within local communities the opportunities for employment within the University.

16. Maintaining links between the University and representatives of a range of faiths.

17. Working with local environmental groups on joint promotions, such as Fair Trade.

18. Contributing to local initiatives, and local contributions to national initiatives (such as Mela, International Womens' Day, Supergay), which give particular recognition to the rights and achievements of residents, staff and students who are designated as "Protected Groups" by the Equality Act.