



Department of Infrastructure

Transport and Road Asset Management CoPE

Case Study 2025/2026

Social Value in Procurement

Social Value in Public Procurement

DfI TRAM CoPE is committed to embedding social value throughout the procurement lifecycle, recognising that public procurement is a key mechanism for delivering wider economic, environmental and social benefits alongside value for money. In line with the requirements set out in [PPN 01 21 - Social Value in Procurement](#), the branch ensures that social value considerations are incorporated from the earliest stages of procurement planning through to contract management and monitoring. This approach supports the Executive's wider objectives, including sustainable economic growth, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and community wellbeing

Creenagh Bridge Replacement and Carriageway Works

The Creenagh Bridge Replacement and Carriageway Works scheme demonstrates how infrastructure delivery can create wider public value beyond the core construction works. Through the Social Value Delivery Plan, the supplier embedded economic, social, community and environmental benefits into the scheme, ensuring that investment in transport infrastructure also supported local people, local businesses and the surrounding environment.

Scheme Overview

In August 2025 DfI awarded a £1.6m contract for Creenagh Bridge Replacement and Carriageway Works Scheme. This was a significant infrastructure investment on the A45 Ballynakilly Road between Coalisland and the M1 motorway. The scheme involved the replacement of the existing Creenagh Bridge, substantial realignment of the carriageway and the provision of improved active travel infrastructure, including a new footway.

Delivered as part of DfI's commitment to improving road safety and connectivity, the project was designed to enhance conditions for motorists, pedestrians and heavy goods vehicles, while supporting local communities and businesses through improved transport links and accessibility. The scheme was completed ahead of schedule in April 2026, delivering long-term safety and connectivity benefits for the area

As part of the scheme delivery the successful Supplier was required to agree a Social Value Development Plan which was monitored and reported on monthly through Strategic Investment Board NI (SIB NI).

Skills, Employment and Career Development

The project supported skills development and promoted careers in civil engineering by creating opportunities for apprentices, placement students and early career professionals to engage directly with a live infrastructure scheme.

- The contractor’s site team included a civil engineering apprentice and a year placement student throughout the duration of the works.
- Site visits were organised for engineering apprentices and early career professionals from DfI Roads and Rivers and WSP, helping to build awareness of infrastructure delivery and future career pathways.

Community Engagement and Inclusion

The scheme created opportunities to bring the local community together and to promote enhanced connectivity between local communities. A cross-community element was built into the final stages of the project, helping to celebrate the bridge as both a physical connection and a symbol of shared community benefit.

- Two local primary schools from different religious backgrounds were invited to site, with one pupil from each school placing the final coping stones on the bridge to symbolise “building bridges” within the community.
- A public reopening event, marked with a vintage car rally, celebrated completion of the scheme with local residents and stakeholders.

Improving Safety, Accessibility and Connectivity

The completed scheme has improved connectivity for local communities and businesses supporting safer and more reliable journeys for road users and pedestrians through the provision of a modern bridge, improved road alignment, enhanced visibility and new footway infrastructure.

- A new vehicle restraint system was constructed on both sides of the road, contributing to the safety of all road users.
- The construction of 270 metres of active travel footway improved pedestrian facilities and delivered a positive impact for the local community.

Supporting Local Economic Growth

The project generated local economic benefit by using nearby suppliers, subcontractors and services wherever possible. This helped retain project expenditure in the local area and supported businesses close to the site during construction.

- A local supply chain was used to deliver the project, with all key subcontractors based within a 20-mile radius of the site.
- Local people from Coalisland were employed in construction roles required to deliver the works.
- The site Christmas dinner for 20 people was held in the Cohannon Inn, approximately two miles from the site.
- The workforce, which reached up to 30 people at any one time, was encouraged to use local convenience stores, providing additional benefit to nearby businesses, including the local convenience shop on Ballynakilly Road.

Environmental Sustainability and Biodiversity

The scheme incorporated sustainable construction practices, including efficient use of materials, responsible waste management, and measures to minimise environmental impacts during construction. These actions contributed to carbon reduction, habitat improvement and the protection of aquatic life.

- Mid Ulster District Council donated 1,000 additional whips and plants, which were planted by the contractor to supplement the landscaping works, supporting biodiversity and carbon reduction.
- Riffles and point bars were constructed in the new riverbed to increase dissolved oxygen levels, supporting fish and aquatic life.
- Electro-fishing was undertaken to safely relocate fish from the existing river channel to the new channel, with over 80 fish relocated.
- Recycled crushed aggregate made up 50% of all imported fill, and planings from the existing road surface were reused for the footway sub-base, reducing the carbon footprint of the project.

Legacy and Long-Term Value

The Creenagh Bridge Replacement Scheme provides a long-term legacy through resilient infrastructure with a 120-year design life. By combining improved safety and connectivity with local employment, community engagement, skills development and environmental enhancement, the scheme demonstrates how public infrastructure investment can deliver lasting social value for current and future generations.