# **NETpositive Supplier Engagement Tool (HE)**

This briefing note covers the following:

1. Tool content refresh – how the Supplier Engagement Tool has been updated
2. The dashboard re-development (it is difficult to detail every change, as it is a totally new dashboard and therefore this will be supported by the training package)
3. An overview of the support package NETpositive Futures delivers to suppliers and tool users to improve the quality of action plans and get the most from the data for the purpose of reporting an engagement.

**1. Tool Content Refresh**

Over the past 6 months we have been carrying out a process of updating the Tool content in response to emerging issues and opportunities to both support the suppliers and focus on the data requirements the HE sector has identified.

**Overview of changes**

Improvements have been made across every section of the Tool tightening content, adding more resources in addition to new demographics, issues and actions. Some significant areas of interest are:

* A strengthening of the Modern Slavery content (this includes collecting a date for the publication of a Modern Slavery Statement)
* A greater focus on Carbon Reduction (this includes asking if the suppliers have calculated a carbon footprint, as well the development of actions which focus the suppliers on tackling energy consumption within the estate, purchase of energy, travel and transport emissions, food consumption, waste and developing a carbon literate workforce)
* The inclusion of demographics, issues and actions around Equality Diversity & Inclusion
* A strengthening of the alignment of the socio-economic content to social value considerations. This includes mapping content to the Themes Outcomes and Measures (TOMs)
* Supporting suppliers to consider their community contribution (especially in a post-Covid, post-Brexit landscape) and the importance of social innovation in contract delivery.

**2. Dashboard Refresh**

We have developed and built a new dashboard, which is focussed on an improved user experience and simpler extraction of the data

A great emphasis has been placed on (amongst other things):

* Simplicity of the dashboard interface
* The ability to view data through key issues e.g. all data related to Modern Slavey on one page
* The ability to view supplier actions through themes such as the SDGs
* The ability to view data through demographic groupings e.g. supplier business size
* The ability to view data through multiple filters e.g. Modern Slavery actions and commitments of all suppliers above or below 36 million turnover
* The ability to remove suppliers from your dashboard view to ensure a clean data set
* The ability to create customised views dynamically for reporting and engagement purposes.

**3. NETpositive Futures Support Package**

The Tool currently has more than 6,500 suppliers to HE registered and a total of 50 Tool users including 46 universities and 4 purchasing consortia.

To coincide with the launch of the new content and dashboard, NETpositive Futures will be refreshing the associated support package provided (for users and suppliers).

This will deliver 3 main objectives:

1. To improve the quality of the supplier action plans
2. To increase the support, we offer to procurement users to extract and interpret the data for reporting purposes
3. To use the national data sets from action plans created (over 4,500 suppliers) to identify critical category issues and progress in key areas to provide insights to universities using the Tool

A full overview of the support can be found at Appendix 1.

***Highlights include:***

* Quarterly newsletter for universities and consortia (Tool users)
* Quarterly newsletter for suppliers
* E-mails to suppliers to encourage movement from registered to completed action plans, in progress to completed actions and updating evidence.
* Social value webinar for Tool users to get the most from the Tool
* Category or issues report (to be identified by Steering Group)
* Targeted e-mail around key issue to improve content (e.g. Modern Slavery)
* Free training sessions for suppliers to improve action plans and update of key issues – to be identified with the sector.

**Appendix 1**

**Programme of support from NETpositive Futures for 2021/22**

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| Month | Activity | Link to objectives |
| April - June | * Quarterly newsletter for universities and consortia (Tool users)
* Quarterly newsletter for suppliers
* E-mails to suppliers to encourage movement from registered to completed action plans, in progress to completed actions and updating evidence
* Social value webinar for tool users to get the most from the tool
* Category or issues report (to be identified by Steering Group)
* Targeted e-mail around key issue to improve content (suggestion modern slavery)
* Free training sessions (2) for suppliers to improve action plans and update of key issues – to be identified with the sector
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| July - September | * Quarterly newsletter for universities and consortia (Tool users)
* Quarterly newsletter for suppliers
* E-mails to suppliers to encourage movement from registered to completed action plans, in progress to completed actions and updating evidence
* Social value webinar for tool users to get the most from the tool
* Category or issues report (to be identified by Steering Group)
* Targeted e-mail around key issue to improve content (suggestion: carbon reduction)
* Free training sessions (2) for suppliers to improve action plans and update of key issues – to be identified with the sector
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| October - December | * Quarterly newsletter for universities and consortia (Tool users)
* Quarterly newsletter for suppliers
* E-mails to suppliers to encourage movement from registered to completed action plans, in progress to completed actions and updating evidence
* Social value webinar for tool users to get the most from the tool
* Category or issues report (to be Identified by Steering Group)
* Targeted e-mail around key issue to improve content (Suggestion: TBD)
* Free training sessions (2) for suppliers to improve action plans and update of key issues – to be identified with the sector
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| January 2022 – March 2022 | * Quarterly newsletter for universities and consortia (Tool users)
* Quarterly newsletter for suppliers
* E-mails to suppliers to encourage movement from registered to completed action plans, in progress to completed actions and updating evidence
* Social value webinar for tool users to get the most from the tool
* Category or issues report (to be identified by Steering Group)
* Targeted e-mail around key issue to improve content (Suggestion: TBD)
* Free training sessions (2) for suppliers to improve action plans and update of key issues – to be identified with the sector
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