

REPORT TO:	FINANCE and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	27th AUGUST 2020	CATEGORY:
		DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (CORPORATE RESOURCES)	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2020 TO 2024	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 13

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the proposed Procurement Strategy for 2020 to 2024 attached to this report, is approved.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To update the Council's Procurement Strategy in order that it aligns to the Council's new Corporate Plan, reflects the latest regulations and provides greater clarity regarding the role of the procurement process.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 Procurement is the process of acquiring goods, services and works to obtain the best mix of quality and effectiveness for the least outlay. This should be achieved through competition unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary.
- 3.2 Procurement has a key role in ensuring that the Council achieves value for money in the delivery of services, which is the over-riding requirement of all public procurement. In doing so, the Council, as a public body, must also demonstrate that its procurement process is fair and transparent.
- 3.3 In addition, procurement also has a wider role to play in contributing to the social, environmental and economic well-being of an area. Therefore, the Council's Strategy is based around three themes, as follows:
- **Being economical:** spending less on a service, supply or contract.
 - **Adhering to Statute:** having due regard to the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (*as amended by the Public Procurement {Amendment, etc.} [EU Exit] Regulations 2019*) together with the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules.

- **Supporting the Council's Objectives:** delivering environmental, economic and social gains.

3.4 Fundamentally, procurement is about being economic by getting the best price for a service, supply or contract that meets service requirements, a certain quality or specification, etc. However, these quality requirements will also need to be balanced against “affordability”, i.e. the amount of available resources or budget provision.

4.0 Detail

4.1 The Strategy is attached to this report. The document is split into two parts. Firstly, the Strategy itself which sets out the aims of procurement, together with ensuring that the process complies with legislative requirements and delivers value for money. This is followed by how the Strategy will be delivered.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None associated with the Strategy.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

6.1 None

Legal Implications

6.2 As detailed in the Strategy, public sector procurement is subject to a legal framework which encourages free and open competition. It is subject to the EU Treaty. Failure to comply with the legal framework could lead to a challenge and probable litigation against the Council.

Corporate Plan Implications

6.3 As detailed in the Strategy. One of the themes in the Strategy is around procurement supporting the Council's objectives.

Risk Impact

6.4 None directly.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

7.1 None required.

Equality and Diversity Impact

7.2 None directly.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 As detailed in the Strategy. Procurement can potentially deliver added benefits regarding local employment and engaging the voluntary sector, etc.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 As detailed in the Strategy. Opportunities exist for the Council to buy goods and services which are sustainable and can help the Council reduce its carbon footprint.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 None.