

DRAFT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2021 - 2025

Summary: The Council's Procurement Strategy has been updated in light of the Covid19 pandemic and to reflect the Council's Corporate priorities. It outlines how the procurement function will support delivery of these objectives, as well as supporting delivery of the Council's budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The updated Strategy also emphasises the increasing importance of using procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long term benefits. The draft Strategy was considered by the Governance Risk and Audit Committee at their meeting of 28 September and any recommendations to the current draft will be provided verbally at the Cabinet meeting.

Options considered: The Council could continue to operate under the current Procurement Strategy but this does not take account of any impact of Covid19 or the current Corporate Priorities.

Conclusions: The Strategy document provides the framework which governs the Council's corporate aims and objectives in relation to procurement. It also provides the structure for the effective management and monitoring of procurement activity. It has been updated in light of the Covid19 pandemic and to reflect the Council's Corporate Priorities and emphasises the increasing importance of using procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives.

Recommendations: **That Cabinet approve the draft strategy.**

Reasons for Recommendations: To agree the updated Procurement Strategy.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

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Cabinet Member(s) - Cllr Eric Seward	Ward(s) affected - All
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The draft Procurement Strategy 2021 – 2025 establishes the Council's strategic approach to procurement and replaces the previous strategy document, providing a high level framework within which to undertake procurement activity.
- 1.2. It also emphasises the increasing importance of using procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long term benefits.
- 1.3. The updated draft Strategy is presented for consideration by Cabinet, it considers issues such as Brexit and Covid whilst also providing a vision for the Council's procurement function and a set of principles and values in relation to the Council's procurement activities.

2. Corporate Plan Objectives

- 2.1 All of the Council's functions are linked in some way to procurement, the new Strategy therefore underpins delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and Delivery Plan activities.
- 2.2 The 'Preston Model' has been considered while developing this draft Strategy and a number of the principles are included within the document, such as how we can use procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives, in ways that offer real long term benefits and understanding the importance of a strong and vibrant local economy and the role the Council can play in stimulating local markets.

3. Medium Term Financial Strategy

- 3.1 Similarly, as with the Corporate Plan objectives effective procurement is essential to help manage and reduce costs and to help ensure the Council is achieving Value for Money and the best outcomes for customers.

4. Financial and Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial impacts of the Strategy per se, the actual impacts will be realised and achieved through the application of the principles contained within the Strategy and the impact which these have on the resulting procurement processes and procurement exercises.
- 4.2 The Council currently has 1 full time Procurement Officer and there are no current plans to increase this headcount.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Again there are no direct legal implications of the Strategy, as with all procurement officers need to be mindful of the relevant laws and best practice when undertaking public procurement and guidance around these issues can be sought from the legal team and also the Procurement Officer.

6. Risks

- 6.1 There is a risk that without an up-to-date Procurement Strategy the Council is not maximising opportunities, reflecting current best practice and ensuring alignment and support of current strategic documents such as the Corporate Plan and MTFS.

7. Communication issues

- 7.1 Once approved through the committee cycle the Strategy will be published on the Council's website to aid transparency and understanding.
- 7.2 To complete and approve the draft Procurement Strategy the timeline below has been followed;

Governance	Date	Purpose
Report for Corporate Leadership Team	July 2021 (complete)	To gain high level sign off of the draft Strategy prior to further consultation and engagement.
Report to Management Team	July 2021 (complete)	Shared ahead of the meeting on 29/07/21 with feedback sort to inform discussions. To seek further views and feedback from MT.
Updated draft to be shared with Portfolio Holder (Cllr Eric Seaward)	06/08/21 (complete)	To gain buy-in and support for draft Strategy ahead of consideration at Cabinet.
Governance, Risk & Audit Committee (GRAC)	28/09/21 (complete)	To gain buy-in and support for draft Strategy ahead of consideration at Cabinet.
Cabinet	04/10/21	Final approval.

8. Sustainability - Climate / Carbon impact

- 8.1 The Strategy recognises the importance of a clean and resilient recovery which will create and support employment and will also ensure that we address the inter-connected challenges of climate change, biodiversity, public health and the economy. A link to the government's recent statement on the green recovery can be found [here](#).
- 8.2 The Strategy helps to promote environmental excellence and innovation in the context of combating climate change to help minimise environmental impact.
- 8.3 We will work with suppliers who will help us to meet our net-zero 2030 emissions targets and also support suppliers who deliver best practice from a carbon reduction and environmental impact perspective.

9. Equality and Diversity

9.1 There are no direct implications on equality and diversity as a result of this Strategy. Any impact on this area will be assessed as part of the individual procurement exercises as appropriate.

10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations

10.1 There are no direct implications on Section 17 as a result of this Strategy. Any impact on this area will be assessed as part of the individual procurement exercises as appropriate.

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

11.1 The Strategy document provides the framework which governs the Council's corporate aims and objectives in relation to procurement. It also provides the structure for the effective management and monitoring of procurement activity. It has been updated in light of the Covid19 pandemic and to reflect the Council's Corporate Priorities and emphasises the increasing importance of using procurement to support wider social, economic and environmental objectives.

11.2 The draft Strategy was considered by the Governance Risk and Audit Committee at their meeting of 28 September and any recommendations to the current draft will be provided verbally at the Cabinet meeting.

11.3 The recommendations are as follows;

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommend approval of the draft strategy.