

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

Procurement is the process of acquiring goods, works and services from third parties - including other public bodies and the voluntary sector, excluding statutory payments. It encompasses small, low value, individual purchases of commodity items through to complex high value, high risk contracts.

Procurement is the process of obtaining supplies, services and construction works - a process which encompasses the full life cycle of the asset or service contract.

It has a far wider scope than purchasing or buying. It is primarily an options appraisal of the best service delivery model and securing services and products that best meet the needs of users and the local community.

Our Vision

This strategy has been produced to ensure the best use of limited resources in support of the Council's objectives in delivering consistently high quality services that meet users' needs with consideration to long-term sustainability.

It aims to help the Council achieve Value for Money and release savings in the cost of supplies and services. The strategy was created to promote effective procurement across the whole organisation and exists to ensure best practice in procurement rather than to create obstacles to successful procurement. It recognises the unique nature of the district and aims to encourage local suppliers to bid for appropriate work.

The aim of the strategy is to ensure that procurement reflects the Council's core values, corporate aims and objectives and maps out the development and improvement of the authorities procurement function to ensure compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Failure to purchase goods, services and works cost effectively and in accordance with National and European legislation can lead to legal challenges which can be costly and put the achievement of key objectives and services at risk.

Objectives

Training and Skills Transfer

Provide a single, easily accessible source of procurement information, advice and training

Robust and Simple Policies and Procedures

Ensure compliance with legislation and regulations whilst minimising the cost of the procurement process

Value for Money

Produce quality business cases that lead to effective cost reduction and demand management techniques that will deliver sustainable results

Quality

Ensure quality elements are clearly defined and well balanced during procurement and contract management

Contract Management

Raise the profile and implement best practice in contract management

Focus on Strategic Suppliers and Review Supplier Base and Supply Chain

Identify and engage with key suppliers that will support the Council in delivering its vision, and optimise the number of suppliers in each category

Communication

Develop channels that ensure a full and effective flow of information to all stakeholders

Critical Success Factors

- Promoting a positive image of procurement within the organisation, gaining buy-in from internal stakeholders
- Engaging with internal customers, to reinforce on the benefits strategic procurement can achieve
- No successful challenges by Suppliers
- Delivery of savings and efficiencies
- Provision of goods and services which provide value for money
- Effective engagement with local business, voluntary and community sectors
- Utilisation of procurement techniques, which are fit for purpose
- Evidenced delivery of economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability

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