

SUBJECT:	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2023-28
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	7th June 2023
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To obtain Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2023-2028 (Appendix A) and to note the contents of the Delivery Plan (Appendix B).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To approve the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2023-2028 which will establish the Council's key procurement objectives and the salient changes that it will need to make for the duration of the strategy to improve the outcomes and enhance the management of its external spend on goods, services and works.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agree that the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy and Delivery Plan are coordinated via the procurement function and this enabling strategy is owned and delivered across all services.
- 2.3 To delegate authority to the Chief Officer Communities and Place to approve any updates from time to time in line with legislative procurement updates.

3. KEY ISSUES:

BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council delivers its services directly through its own workforce, and through private and third sector organisations. The Council spends in excess of £98 million a year procuring a diverse range of goods, services and works from over 2,800 providers and contractors.
- 3.2 Collective ownership across all Council services for the delivery of the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2023-28 and action plan will create the right enabling platform for the development of progressive policies that will achieve greater and more targeted social, economic and environmental gains through working with our supply chains. Such focus will enable the Council's third party spend to deliver positive outcomes in the areas around decarbonisation, achieving social value, securing fair work and delivering of community benefits that will allow officers and their suppliers to play a significant role in bringing about a fairer society.
- 3.3 The Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy replaces the Council's " Procuring for Public Value" Strategy 2018-2022 which included a number of key objectives that have been progressed during the tenure of this strategy, they include:
- Enhancing procurement capability and capacity with the Delegated Authority procurement partnership arrangement with Cardiff Council
 - Stronger governance and visibility of spend with timely spend data interrogation and performance reporting.
 - Updating of the Councils Contract Procedure Rules to provide more opportunity for local procurement spend, whilst ensuring that value for money is an ongoing feature.
 - Investments in the Council's electronic procurement software to increase transparency and effective contract management.
 - The adoption of WG "Code of Practice - Ethical Employment in Supply Chains" to drive the right behaviors across our supply networks.
 - Resource has been identified to help baseline the carbon footprint of the Council's purchased goods, services and works with the intention to reduce carbon outputs.
 - Work continues to develop shorter more localised supply chains (e.g. food production and distribution)
 - Developing systems that look to embed a greater degree of Community Benefits across more of the Council's spend.

- 3.4 The Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2023-2028 places a new and increased emphasis on the delivery of seven key procurement objectives:
- Contributing to reducing the Council's carbon emissions to Net Zero by 2030.
 - Making procurement spend more accessible to local small businesses and third sector.
 - Improving Fair Work, Equity and Safeguarding practices adopted by suppliers.
 - Increasing equitable community benefits delivered by suppliers.
 - Securing value for money and managing demand.
 - Ensuring legal compliance and robust and transparent governance.
 - Promoting innovative and best practice solutions.
- 3.5 This Strategy has been informed by the Community and Corporate Plan and by Welsh Government legislation and policy including the Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act 2015, Wales Procurement Policy Statement 2022, the Code of Practice – Ethical Employment in Supply Chains 2021; and both the pending Procurement Bill and Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill which are due to become legislation towards the end of 2023.
- 3.6 The Council has a responsibility to manage public money with probity, to comply with UK and Welsh Government legislation, and to ensure that value for money is achieved. Procurement is also increasingly seen as an enabler for the delivery of a number of key local and national priorities such as decarbonisation, fair work, delivering community benefits and supporting local businesses and communities.
- 3.7 The procurement partnership model that the Council has entered into with Cardiff Council has now been extended between Cardiff, Torfaen and more recently the Vale of Glamorgan Councils, such a move will now provide opportunities for greater collaborative thinking and the development of shared actions against the key procurement objectives listed above.

3.8 The delivery of this Strategy will be managed through an annually updated Delivery Plan (Appendix B) with progress reported to Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee and to Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and published on an annual basis.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The “ Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2023-28” and the associated delivery plan have been developed to align with the Council’s Community & Corporate Plan as well as WG policy including the “Well Being of Future Generations Wales Act” and the “Code of Practice – Ethical employment in supply chains” along with the pending Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill.

We therefore anticipate that targeted pieces of work documented under each of the strategic objectives will have a positive impact on tackling inequality and poverty, health and wellbeing, education and skills.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

5.1 The pending Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill recognises that procurement is one of the most important levers we have to support the creation of a more equal, more sustainable and more prosperous Wales and sets out a statutory duty for Public Bodies to publish a socially responsible procurement strategy.

5.2 As part of the consultation process the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy has been scrutinised by Performance and Overview Committee. The associated delivery plan includes a number of actions (that will be updated on an annual basis) and require input and ownership from a cross sector of stakeholders, where progress will form part of the annual performance reports to Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee and to Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

6. REASONS:

The role of procurement in local government remains pivotal in addressing the economic, social and environmental pressures that we face.

The Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy and delivery plan, sets out the direction of travel for the organisation and the Council's procurement function over the next five years and identifies the activities and dates by which we will measure our successes.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no specific resource implications attached to the strategy. The delivery of the actions documented within the delivery plan will be undertaken within existing resources, via a combination of procurement personnel and wider Council resources.

8. CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team;

Informal Cabinet;

Performance & Overview Scrutiny Committee - Comments were as follows:

The Committee agreed to move the report, with the following additions:

- Ensure that the 6 main settlements were updated to include Chepstow.
- Against the top ten spend categories, can consideration be given to including percentages of total spend.
- The delivery plan to be included and further details on measures and delivery targets referenced.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

n/a

10. AUTHORS:

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