

SUBJECT:	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT POLICY
MEETING:	PERFORMANCE AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
DATE:	18TH NOVEMBER 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy (Appendix One) for consideration and scrutiny, prior to presentation to Cabinet.
- 1.2 Following consideration, delegated authority will be requested to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to approve any updates to reflect national Guidance and/ or meet new legislative requirements.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the contents of the Policy and offer any comments for consideration, prior to presentation to Cabinet, and the subsequent request for approval, for the adoption of the Policy on the 10th of December 2025.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Ardal procurement service, run by Cardiff Council, delivers the collaborative procurement partnership across Monmouthshire, Cardiff, Torfaen, and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils. Ardal's aim is to deliver value for money and socially responsible procurement for Ardal partners through shared resources, knowledge, learning and expertise.
- 3.2 To deliver efficiencies for all Ardal Councils and standardise procurement processes for organisations who want to work with any Ardal Council, a Socially Responsible Procurement Policy has been created for each Council, that is built around the same eight socially responsible objectives, as detailed in paragraph 3.7 of this report. The purpose of Monmouthshire's Policy is to set out the steps the Council will take to implement Socially Responsible Procurement and the same clear expectations of what we will require from our suppliers and contractors.
- 3.3 The policy, which is an external facing document, aims to maximise social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being through the procurement activities offered by the Council. It also sets expectations for suppliers and contractors, in conjunction with Ardal's [Selling to the Council Guide](#), and aligns with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 3.4 As stipulated in the 'Purpose' of the Policy', requirements for contracts will be proportionate to the size of the contract, to ensure no unnecessary barriers to participation are created. The actual requirements suppliers will be expected to meet and / or comply with will vary for each tender according to contract value or where a contract requires a specific Well-being impact. Where the contract is

sizeable, suppliers will be encouraged to contact Business Wales who provide free business support to businesses wishing to partake in public sector procurements, details can be found on the Ardal website by using the link contained within the Policy document.

- 3.5 The Council has a strong record of using procurement as a vehicle to deliver local and national policy priorities. The Council's [Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy](#) and [Delivery Plan](#), this Policy and all the supporting procurement processes and procedures i.e. Contract Procedure Rules, are geared towards maximising the delivery of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being through Council contracts. This includes decarbonisation, promoting fair work, maximising the delivery of community well-being benefits (formerly social value) and maximising the opportunities for local businesses to bid for contracts, all of which align with the ambitions of the Council's Community and Corporate Plan. Delivery will be monitored and reported in the Council's annual self-assessment report of the enabling strategies.
- 3.6 Figure One below details the standardised approach taken by Council's within Ardal. In essence, the primary aim of the *Socially Responsible Procurement Policy* is to ensure that Ardal Councils maximise the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing that it delivers through its procurement activity; the *Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy* sets out the key role procurement will play in enabling each Ardal Council to deliver their strategic priorities and the *Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs)* set out how each Council will undertake procurement in a consistent way, by adopting the same four Procurement Routes.

Figure One: Ardal's Common Approach



- 3.7 At the heart of the Policy is the policy framework which contains eight socially responsible objectives aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act's four well-being Outcomes. The eight socially responsible objectives are:
- Reducing Carbon Emissions.
 - Enhancing the Natural Environment and Biodiversity.
 - Embedding Fair Work and Ethical Employment.
 - Creating Sustainable Employment and Skills Growth.
 - Working with our Communities.
 - Protecting the Well-being of Young People and Vulnerable Adults.
 - Supporting our Local Economy.
 - Promoting a Vibrant Culture, Heritage and Welsh language.
- 3.8 The Policy references and links to relevant legislation, Welsh Procurement Policy Notes, wider national/local policy and guidance:
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act
 - Procurement Act (2023)
 - Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act (2023)
- 3.9 Further guidance is awaited from the Welsh Government around the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act, including details of the requirements on public bodies to publish an annual Procurement Report and to report on a series Well-being Impact Measures, which have yet to be finalised. This may result in updates being needed to the Policy and the delegation is proposed to deal with this, along with updates to meet new legislation requirements.
- 3.10 Awareness of the Policy will be generated amongst Officers through the soon to be established Procurement Network, which will bring together Officers with Procurement responsibilities to increase their skills and knowledge. Specification document development updates will also be available to Officers to support the tendering process. Wider awareness will be raised through a planned Communications campaign which will be targeted at various audiences including Members and the business community and third sector, who will also be invited to targeted 'Meet the Buyer' events being planned for early 2026.

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

- 4.1 An Equality and Future Generations Evaluation Assessment is not applicable in this case as there are no proposed changes to existing service delivery and policy.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 This is a covering report to present the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy for consideration, prior to presentation to Business Cabinet, and the subsequent request for approval, for the adoption of the Policy by Cabinet. An options appraisal is therefore not required.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Socially Responsible Procurement Policy sets out a series of well-being objectives that are to be demonstrably considered when considering

Commissioning and Procurement arrangements to the range of services that the Council delivers and requires. As with all Commissioning and Procurement arrangements, work must be undertaken to ensure that the likely cost of the service or goods is robustly estimated prior to a decision being made. It is also required that the funding sources are identified prior to a decision with clear mitigations in place in the event of actual costs exceeding the estimate.

7. CONSULTTEES

7.1 Ardal Colleagues, Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet

7.2 Engagement has taken place with Council policy leads over the summer of 2024; with the final stage of engagement being an open market engagement exercise by Ardal to encourage suppliers and contractors the opportunity to respond to a survey to provide feedback on the eight themes and how their obligation could be met. 23 contractors responded in late 2024, all saying they supported the eight socially responsible objectives as described and that there were no additional objectives required. The Policy was updated to reflect the comments received from Ardal Councils and contractors. Overall, there has been a positive response from all to the Policy.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act
- Procurement Act (2023)
- Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act (2023)
- <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2024/06/Socially-Responsible-Procurement-Strategy-2023-28-Final.docx>

9. AUTHORS

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