

SUBJECT:	SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT POLICY
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	10TH DECEMBER 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy (Appendix One) for consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the adoption of the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to approve any subsequent updates to reflect national Guidance and/ or meet new legislative requirements, to the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer for Resources, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Resources.

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 3.5. 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 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.
- 3.4 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



3.5 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.

3.6 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)

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 Awareness of the Policy will be generated amongst Officers through the Procurement Network which was established on the 19th of November. The Network brings together Officers with procurement responsibilities to increase their skills and knowledge, provide regular updates including revised specification documents to support the tendering process and share and promote best practice. Procurement surgeries will also be held to provide targeted one to one support.
- 3.9 Wider awareness will be raised through a planned 'plain English' Communications campaign which will be targeted at various audiences including Members and the business community and third sector. Officers will ensure that the Policy is promoted in accessible language to encourage engagement, activities will also include targeted 'Meet the Buyer' events, planned for early 2026.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 It is important to note that not all requirements stipulated within the Policy will need to be met by all suppliers and contractors tendering for Council contracts. Requirements will be proportionate and tailored according to the size of the contract. 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.

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, and the Policy has been designed to supplement the existing Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy. However, as the previous Assessment was undertaken in September 2023, an updated version can be found in Appendix Two.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 This Policy supports the delivery of national and Council Corporate strategies and outcomes, 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. CONSULTEES

- 7.1 Ardal Colleagues, Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet and Performance and Overview Committee.
- 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 allow 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, with 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.
- 7.3 The Policy was considered as an additional business item at the Performance and Overview Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th of November 2025. Some comments and questions were raised by Committee Members, the responses to which are detailed in Appendix Three of this report.

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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Appendix One



Socially Responsible
Procurement Policy -

Appendix Two



Integrated Impact
Assessment Procurement

Appendix Three

Queries raised by Performance and Overview Committee Members on the 18th of November and subsequent responses provided.

Query Raised	Response Provided
1. What do "PTR" and "CAR" mean on page 6 of the SRPP?	PTR – Pre Tender Report; CAR Contract Award Report These abbreviations have now been removed and the full description provided in the attached, revised Policy.
2. The document is aspirational; how will its success be measured – what about KPIs, and what will the mechanisms be for reporting back to the committee?	Page 22 of the Policy states that ‘ The Policy will be implemented through each Council’s established Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy and Action Plan and assessed using standard KPI’s. From 2026 delivery of the policy will be monitored and reported in each Council’s annual performance report of its Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy’ Paragraph 3.5 of the covering report also states: ‘Delivery will be monitored and reported in the Council’s annual self-assessment report of the enabling strategies. The self-assessment report will be presented to the Committee for scrutiny.
3. How will the policy be monitored and reported back to the committee, given the mention of ‘the 2026 policy to be monitored by council’?	Please refer to the response to Question 2 above.
4. Should there not be an Integrated Impact Assessment for the policy?	Paragraph 4.1 of the covering report states: 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. For further clarification, the Policy supplements the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy for which an Integrated Impact Assessment was previously undertaken.
5. On page 8 of the SRPP, why is 'need' 5th out of 8 in identified priorities? Given that the residents are our customers, should we not find out the need from customers first? The emphasis does not suggest the correct priority to meet customer needs (and legal requirements to meet needs). [I think this refers to 'Working with our communities,' under 'Social']	There is no hierarchy for the priorities or objectives. They are linked to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and as such are all equally important.
6. In the project process, why is 'plan' first – should the need not be defined first? Unless the diagram is misleading?	<p>On page 11 of the Policy, the planning stage is prioritised within the procurement cycle. For instance, if the contract for printers is about to expire in three months, planning for re-procurement starts first. The specific needs of the Authority are then redefined based on recent assessments.</p> <p>Plan, Define, Procure, Manage is also the cycle outlined in Procurement Act 2023 guidance.</p>
7. How does the policy support local small/medium-sized Enterprises and Social Enterprises, and what percentage of procurement spend is expected to be directed to these groups?	<p>Supporting our local economy, including local SME's and Social Enterprises is one of our key socially responsible objectives. The Policy outlines our ambition to achieve this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote our Contract Forward Plan to local businesses and increase the number of opportunities advertised through Sell2Wales. • Actively promote opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Voluntary and Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs) to bid for work by, where appropriate, breaking down larger contracts into 'lots', reserving below threshold procurement for MSMEs/VCSEs, and carrying out pre-

	<p>market engagement including market warming events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage our suppliers and contractors to support the local economy by using local businesses in their supply chains and local labour wherever possible to fulfil contract obligations and ensuring prompt payment. • Encourage our suppliers and contractors in the transition to a more circular local economy by waste prevention, reducing waste and closing product and material loops through value retention within the resource hierarchy. • Work with partners such as Business Wales, Business in Focus, Federation of Small Businesses and South Wales Chamber of Commerce to improve the skills of local SMEs to access public sector opportunities. • Ensure that payments to contractors and throughout supply chain are made within 30-day payment terms. <p>Currently the percentage of spend with local businesses is 17.93%. However, work is planned with MCC's Business Support team to develop a profile of businesses in the County. An exercise will be undertaken to identify a full list of local preferred business partners to determine appropriate targets moving forward.</p>
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