

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Cabinet - 3 March 2016

Report of Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Finance Advisory Committee - 25 January 2016

Key Decision: No

This report supports the Council Promise to provide value for money

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Searles

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Recommendation to Finance Advisory Committee:

To recommend to Cabinet that the updated Procurement Strategy be adopted.

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To adopt the updated Procurement Strategy.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure that the Council has in place an appropriate strategy that guides all procurement activity across the council.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Council's current Procurement Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in September 2013. Since this time the Council's Officer Procurement Group has kept the Strategy under review to ensure it continues to comply with relevant legislation and best practice in procurement as well as supporting the Council in meeting its priorities.
- 2 The current Procurement Strategy requires updating to ensure it takes account of the Council's safeguarding duties and updated promises to residents which will also form the basis of the Council's next Corporate Plan.

Updates to the Procurement Strategy

- 3 The Procurement Strategy as adopted in 2013 continues to provide a robust framework for procurement activity across the council by ensuring key principles are considered in the award of any contract for goods or services.

- 4 It is a requirement of the Strategy that any amendments required to it are reported to Members for their consideration and approval. In summary the Procurement Strategy at Appendix A includes the following updates:
- Revised Council Promises (page 1 of the Strategy); and
 - Addition of a section on Safeguarding (page 4 of the Strategy).

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

- 5 No further options have been considered by Officers. The update to the Strategy is important to support best practice procurement across the council. Members may wish to recommend other areas that the Strategy should consider to further improve the Council's approach to procurement.

Key Implications

Financial

- 6 The Procurement Strategy is designed to support the delivery of best value in all decision making in the purchase of goods and services. Adoption of the updated Procurement Strategy will continue to promote effective use of council resources and value for money.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 7 Failure to follow appropriate procurement guidance and legislation has the potential to create significant complications for a local authority. The Strategy promotes best practice and Officers are clear on the requirements to adhere to financial and contract procedure rules, and to take the professional advice of the Council's legal service to ensure guidance and legislation is followed in all procurement activity.
- 8 The Council's Officer Procurement Group plays a key role in minimising risk to the Council and regular Internal Audit reviews provide assurance that appropriate practices are being followed and recommendations for improvement will be made where this is not the case.

Equality Assessment

- 9 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

- 10 Updates to the council's Procurement Strategy have been recommended to Members to ensure that the framework that guides the decision making on all purchases of goods and services is in accordance with relevant legislation and best practice in procurement as well as supporting the Council in meeting its priorities.

11 Subject to the consideration of the Finance Advisory Committee it is recommended that the updated Strategy put forward is recommended for adoption by Cabinet.

Appendices Appendix A - Draft Procurement Strategy

Background Papers None

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services