

Actions against the Procurement and Commissioning Strategy Priorities

1. Making Savings

- 1.1. The main objective of the procurement function is to deliver Value for Money and ensure corporate governance and to meet the needs of local citizens.
- 1.2. Tenders are evaluated on the basis of “MEAT”(most economically advantageous) criteria which take into account the optimum balance of “Quality” and “Price” rather than awarding to the cheapest bidder.
- 1.3. Tenders are frequently offered on the basis of a “capped budget” to ensure that bids are affordable and therefore we are seeking to maximise the quality element and ensure that we get what we can from the resources allocated.
- 1.4. The majority of procurement projects undertaken during 2018 have been property related. Financial pressures have been encountered when inviting tenders for Works contracts. The Procurement Team, Corporate Asset Manager and the Property Services Provider (Lambert Smith Hampton) have worked together to minimise the impact of inflationary pressures through value-engineering schemes to bring them within the allowed budget.

2. Supporting Local Economies

- 2.1. Work has continued to take place with Officers across the Council to develop outcome specifications which require a certain outcome rather than specifying inputs and outputs which are not overly restrictive and rely more on the expertise of the market. Used as appropriate, outcome specifications enable a more flexible and intelligent approach to procurement. In line with the Social Value Act this can support the council in obtaining more socio-economic and environmental benefits for the communities of South Lakeland. The local community groups was invited to input to the specification for the Playgrounds specifications and users are involved in the process.
- 2.2. The procurement documentation has been updated to support the council priority for economic growth, the environment and ethical trading. By doing so and by tailoring procurement exercises so that they are proportional and relevant it is expected that contractual arrangements offering better value for the people of South Lakeland will be a common theme.
- 2.3. Discussions are ongoing about the introduction of a social Value policy which may assist in the future conduct of procurement exercises to enable great use of Socio, economic and environmental impacts of future programmes to assist the local supply chain

3. Leadership

- 3.1. Over the past year, the Procurement Team has provided support to Officers at South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) across all directorates including:-
 - Improvements in the IT and shared services provision.
 - Kendal Markets
 - Kendal Town Hall
 - Ulverston Leisure centre

- 3.2. The Procurement Team has continued to work with other authorities in Cumbria and the North West as appropriate to share best practice, work on joint initiatives, and undertake collaborative procurement exercises. The Council collaborated with Carlisle City Council for their Disabled facilities grant Framework .We actively cooperate in cross authority knowledge transfer in EPIC meetings
- 3.3. The Procurement Team has attended a seminar on “Evaluation Techniques” with colleagues from other regional councils

4. Modernising Procurement

- 4.1. Following review by all Senior and Operational Managers, the Council’s first Procurement Schedule and Addendum was approved on 31 March 2016. This has aided forward planning across the procurement function and enabled a more auditable system for tracking progress against procurement activity.
- 4.2. Procurement processes have continued to be reviewed and adapted to respond to feedback from suppliers and to meet the requirements of the new Public Contracts Regulations 2015. With the process slimmed down making it more efficient yet still robust enough to safeguard the council, positive outcomes are being realised that deliver value for money as a result of procurement activity.
- 4.3. The Council’s Contract Procedure Rules have been reviewed and updated to further streamline procurement processes, which will reduce bureaucracy and result in the faster award of contracts. The new rules came into effect on 1st April 2019 and include an approved annual Procurement Schedule to be agreed by Council for all procurement exercises.
- 4.4. Relationships with professional buying consortia have been developed to enable effective procurement of playgrounds (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation); specialist consultancy services (North East Purchasing Organisation; and energy (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation).

5. Embedding Delivery

- 5.1. Enabling and delivering opportunities for sustainable economic growth through encouraging local suppliers to bid for Council contracts and writing contract specifications that will make a positive impact on the local economy and community. This is evidenced in the procurement of property assisted projects through the Bloom framework and working with suppliers and developing relationships through the supplier’s day.
- 5.2. Providing homes to meet need – supported by the procurement of a new Disabled Facilities Grant Framework to ensure that meet the needs of users and their wishes
- 5.3. Protecting and enhancing our environment. The new Property Services provider will provide specialist advice on how to reduce energy consumption across the Council’s buildings as part of the contract specification.
- 5.4. Improving health and reducing health inequalities through engaging with the community to understand their needs. The local community groups supported the development of the specification for new playground.
- 5.5. Commissioning services which are environmentally and socially responsible. Consultants were procured to deliver analysis of private water supply

6. Monitoring and Review

- 6.1. The Procurement and Contracts Manager is responsible for monitoring and reviewing Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Strategy 2019-2021. The strategy remains fit-for-purpose and significant progress has been made over the past year.

6.2. A review of the procurement function and the Council's management of contracts was undertaken as part of the customer connect transformation programme.