

# SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 28 OCTOBER 2021

## STARRED ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

#### 3 2020-21 ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT/STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT

- 3.1 There had been circulated copies of the report by the Executive Director Finance & Regulatory presenting the 2020/21 Annual Procurement Report. The report was mandatory required by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. It was noted that the recommendation should refer to the 2020/21 report. The report included a dedicated section noting the support and service provided in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The key areas of support included payment and reporting of all relevant business support, managing financial sustainability support for Social Care Providers and working as part of a cross functional team on the sourcing, supply and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE). The report also included the adjustment of Procurement and Contract Standing Orders to amend the process of approving the appointment of consultants. It was proposed that individual Directors undertake this approval, rather than the current process by the Corporate Management Team.
- 3.2 The report highlighted that £70 million in business grants were made to around 5,000 local businesses with specific support payments made to early years, childcare and transport services. Social Work contract facilitated payments in excess of £1.5 million to support long-term sustainability of key social care providers. There had been a 357% increase in PPE use with £1.2 million spent for staff during the pandemic. Payment performance highlighted that 95% of invoices were processed within 30 days, 60% of invoices were processed within 10 days and 98% of payments were processed by BACS payments. The report further highlighted that £178,830,146 in total was spent in procurement with £106,355,721 being spent on micro, small and medium sized-businesses. The work on the Hawick Flood Protection Scheme was included as part of a case study which showed that to protect 900 homes in Hawick, 6km of flood defence work took place that supported the employment of 59 people where 44% of the workforce on the scheme were from the Hawick area and £1.2 million of sub-contract activity was spent on local businesses.
- 3.3 Members thanked Ms Dickson and her team for their hard work and were pleased to note the improved performance in the payment of invoices. With regard to the proposed changes to standing orders, the Executive Director Finance & Regulatory confirmed that the appointment of consultants would still be subject to strict controls managed by the Procurement Service. Members noted the summary of community benefits and hoped these would continue to increase.

#### DECISION

- (a) **AGREED to approve the Annual Procurement Report 2020-21, as contained in the Appendix to the report.**
- \* (b) **AGREED TO RECOMMEND to Council the amendment of the Procurement & Contract Standing Orders to provide for the approval by Directors of the appointment of consultants.**