
CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2023/24

Report by Acting Chief Financial Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14 March 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the refreshed Corporate Procurement Strategy for 2023/24 ahead of publication.**
- 1.2 The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out specific duties for contracting bodies (including Local Authorities). These duties include the publishing of a procurement strategy and an annual report on delivery of the strategy. The appended Corporate Procurement Strategy for 2023/24 aligns with the Council Plan approved by Council on 23 February 2023.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Executive Committee approves the Corporate Procurement Strategy as set out in Appendix 1.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 During 2021/22 the Council spent in the region of £183m with third party suppliers and providers on goods, services and works. This figure comprises revenue and capital spend and is equivalent to more than 50% of the Council's net annual revenue budget.
- 3.2 The Corporate Procurement service provides both a strategic and operational procurement service to the organisation. Live Borders has access to strategic procurement services through service level agreements.
- 3.3 Nationally, the Scottish Government is leading procurement reform through The Procurement Reform Act (2014) which puts sustainability at the heart of good public sector procurement.
- 3.4 This Act created regulations across a number of matters, one of which is the requirement to prepare a procurement strategy. The strategy must set out how the Council intends to ensure that its procurement activity delivers value for money and contributes to its broader aims and objectives. The strategy must comply with the associated statutory guidance which lays out the required form, content, monitoring and reporting.
- 3.5 The existing procurement strategy expires at the end of 2022/23. This new strategy will commence from 1 April 2023 and is proposed to run for 2023/24. The strategy requires to be reviewed and appropriate revisions made at least annually.

4 CURRENT SITUATION

- 4.1 The Corporate Procurement service has a crucial role to play in supporting the delivery of the strategic aims of the Council Plan. It is therefore essential that a challenging and ambitious procurement strategy meeting the aims of this plan is put in place.
- 4.2 Good progress has been made through the existing procurement strategy and improvement plan, which is evidenced through the 2021/22 annual procurement report approved by Executive Committee on 13 September 2022.
- 4.3 It is widely recognised that with the financial challenges the public sector faces, the role that strategic procurement has to play has never been more important. Further, these challenges require an imaginative and commercially focussed approach to be brought to the way the Council considers its supply chain and engages and manages its suppliers.
- 4.6 The new strategy therefore recognises the positive progress already made and maximises the opportunities for further improvements to be delivered in support of the Council's overall strategic ambitions and priorities.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications contained in the report however, the new strategy will support delivery of value for money, financial plan savings and other efficiencies.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

If no new strategy and supporting annual report is developed then the Council will not be compliant with statutory legislation with no benefit accessed from the opportunities the new strategy should offer.

5.3 Integrated Impact Assessment

There are no adverse equality issues arising from the report.

5.4 Sustainable Development Goals

Effective procurement supports a prosperous, fair and sustainable area, delivering best value as well as local economic, social and environmental benefits.

5.5 Climate Change

There are no climate issues associated with this report.

5.6 Rural Proofing

This Strategy makes provision for the local dimension and rural proofing.

5.7 Data Protection Impact Statement

There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.8 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to the Schemes of Administration or Delegation as a result of this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Legal Officer (including as Monitoring Officer), the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, Director (People Performance & Change), Communications and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and comments received have been incorporated into this final report.

Approved by

Suzy Douglas
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Scottish Borders Council 23rd February 2023

Previous Minute Reference:

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Suzy Douglas can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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