

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING:	28th September 2020
TITLE:	Procurement Update
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Presentation to be provided in the meeting	

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The report provides an update on the work of the Strategic Procurement Team during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It covers: -

- (1) Emergency procurement arrangements
- (2) Procurement Policy Notes (PPN's) issued by the Cabinet Office and impact on processes
- (3) Procurement of PPE
- (4) Other Procurement activity
- (5) Supplier Relief Update

1.2 The report also provides a brief update on changes to procurement rules as a result of BREXIT.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

2.1 Note and discuss the presentation explaining the Covid-19 impact on the Councils procurement arrangements.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 Local authorities are estimated to annually spend £55bn procuring goods, services and works. According to the National Audit Office the annual spend across the wider public sector is around £284bn. As a result of the pandemic the latest national spend data has shown that in March and April the number of public tenders fell by over 50%. Approximately 25% of the contracts awarded went to companies who had not previously won public sector contracts.

- 3.2 Along with most local authorities B&NES put in emergency spend controls, which included temporary suspensions on non-essential tender activity and where necessary putting in place emergency contract extensions to ensure supply chains for essential goods and services were maintained.
- 3.3 Emergency procurement arrangements working with colleagues across the West of England were put in place to support the LRF in procuring goods and services required as a result of the pandemic.
- 3.4 A Supplier Relief scheme was put in place where contractors were unable to meet their contractual obligations and were placed at financial risk as a result of the pandemic.
- 3.5 The presentation provides further information on the work carried out.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 All procurement activity must be carried out in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 which are incorporated within the Council's Contract Standing Orders. During the pandemic the Council also worked within the guidance issued by the Cabinet Office within Procurement Practice Notes (PPN's)

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 These are contained throughout the report and presentation.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 7.1 This is an information only report about the procurement during the Covid-19 Pandemic. It therefore does not include any decisions that have a direct impact on Climate Change.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Cabinet Member for Resources has been consulted on the drafting of this report as well as the Section 151 Officer, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer.

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Background papers	Procurement Policy Notes https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/procurement-policy-notes#2020
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	