

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Cabinet</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>12 September 2024</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		<b>E 3570</b>
TITLE:	<b>Refreshed Procurement Strategy</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> Draft Procurement Strategy		

## 1 THE ISSUE

The council's current Procurement Strategy covers the period 2020 - 2024. The proposed new strategy builds on the successes of the previous strategy and ensures that the requirements of the new procurement legislation coming into force October 2024 (The Procurement Act 2023) have been considered, as well as the ambitions and priorities laid out in the Corporate Strategy.

## 2 RECOMMENDATION

**The Cabinet is asked to;**

2.1 Approve the revised Procurement Strategy for publication.

## 3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Procurement Strategy has been developed to support B&NES Council's strategic aims and priorities. It outlines the ambition and direction of travel for procurement activity across the council.

3.2 The Procurement Strategy sits alongside the council's Contract Standing Orders, which are the regulatory framework for all staff to follow in respect of purchasing goods, services and works regardless of value.

3.3 It is recognised that procurement activity can be powerful and support the council toward its long-term vision, contributing towards the ambitions and priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy.

3.4 The strategy is framed around 6 priority themes. They interrelate as a balance of considerations, are not in order of priority nor are they exhaustive. Putting our energy into these areas will have the biggest impact on supporting the council's aims and ambitions:

- (1) Delivering Best Value & Good Governance
- (2) Embedding Sustainability & Climate Action into all Procurement Activity
- (3) Providing Opportunity for Economic, Social & Environmental Wellbeing
- (4) Enhancing the Supply Market
- (5) Improving Contract & Commercial Management
- (6) Building Skills & Capability

3.5 Under each strategy theme a range of outcomes are outlined, along with activities. The strategy is supported by an action plan, with key dates and milestones. The action plan will be a working document that will be used to monitor the delivery of the strategy.

3.6 The proposed strategy is for the organisation, not just the Strategic Procurement Team and supports our Being our Best culture programme. Commitment is required at all levels across the organisation, to help deliver this strategy.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 There are no known legal implications of adopting the strategy. However, adopting an up-to-date procurement strategy will assist the council in working within the relevant legislative framework.

4.2 Procurement operates in a highly regulated environment governed by the council's Contract Standing Orders and legislation such as the UK Public Contract Regulations 2015, the Concession Contracts Regulations 2016 and the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016, which are soon to be replaced by the Procurement Act 2023. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 will be applicable to pre-procurement procedures and the Council must consider how any services it is considering procuring might improve social priorities and the wellbeing of the service area.

4.3 The Procurement Strategy does not replace any of the council's internal rules (Financial Regulations or Contract Standing Orders) or statutory procurement legislation. It provides guidance and support for officers involved in procurement activity and can be accessed by members of the public and potential suppliers, providing assurance around our procurement activities.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

5.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of the Procurement Strategy, clearly the absence of an agreed strategy could lead to increased costs being incurred by the council, or indeed missed opportunities to secure value for money.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the council's decision making risk management guidance. There are no known risks related to introducing a revised Procurement Strategy.

## 7 EQUALITIES

7.1 There are no known equalities impacts of introducing a revised Procurement Strategy.

## 8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report, however climate change has been considered in drafting the strategy and is the focus of one of the strategy's key themes. This will help ensure climate and ecological impacts are considered when buying goods, services, and works and therefore support the councils' priority to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.

## 9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 An alternative option, which is not recommended, is to not have a defined Procurement Strategy. This option has been discounted because it is best practice to have an overarching procurement strategy which supports the organisation's corporate priorities and objectives.

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 A range of internal stakeholders have been engaged in formulation of the strategy and any feedback received has, where practical to do so, been incorporated into this draft.

- (1) Procurement Steering Group
- (2) Corporate Policy & Scrutiny Panel
- (3) Corporate Management Team
- (4) Leading & Managing Together Groups

<b>Contact person</b>	Cheryl Hansford, Acting Head of Procurement Cheryl_hansford@bathnes.gov.uk Jeff Wring, Director of Financial Services, Assurance & Pensions <a href="mailto:Jeff_wring@bathnes.gov.uk">Jeff_wring@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
<b>Background papers</b>	Attached draft Procurement Strategy
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	