

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister produced the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in October 2003. The aim of the strategy was to enable local authorities to achieve the highest standards of service delivery through effective, efficient, resourceful and prudent procurement. It sets out a series of milestones over a three-year period that all local authorities are expected to achieve.
- 1.2 Further initiatives have supported the Governments aims and this Council is involving with the North West Centre of Excellence and the Cumbria Procurement Initiative, the latter being one of the Cumbria Local Authorities Strategic Board shared service projects, and at present the most substantially progressed project.
- 1.3 The Council Strategy follows the principles of the National procurement Strategy and is tailored to meet the scope and demands of Procurement within this particular Authority. It is deliberately as concise as possible in order to make it reasonably easy to read whilst containing the high level objectives and an acceptable level of detail.
- 1.4 Aligned to the Procurement Strategy is an Action Plan to map out the way in which the Strategy is to be implemented. This takes into account the procurement officer temporary 12 month Contract, and recognises that development must be concentrated as best possible within this period of time.
- 1.5 The Council Corporate team and management group have been consulted, and the Procurement Representatives in all Service units have been advised..
- 1.6 Members of the OSC are asked to;
 - consider the Strategy and Action Plan and comment as they wish
 - recommend approval of the Strategy and Action Plan to Executive, in order that the strategy may be adopted Council wide and that the Action plan may be implemented.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Procurement applies to all services and goods obtained by the Council. This extends from purchase of consumables such as pens and paper to leasing such as photocopiers through to outsourcing services such as Valuation and Estates Services, and all types of contracts for consultants and works, including partnerships and PFI contracts.

2 KEY STRATEGY AIMS

3.1 Some of the key points of the procurement Strategy are mentioned below:

- To support the aims of the Corporate Plan; enabling efficiencies and savings to be made in all areas of procurement so that best value for money is obtained over full lifecycle of products and services
- To disseminate the advantages of effective procurement, embody procurement techniques in staff day to day activities.
- To foster and develop shared services through the Cumbria Procurement Initiative , taking advantage of all available opportunities and the establishment of a common supplier base.
- To register with a marketplace, supplier portal to widen the availability of competitive prices for products and services.
- To reduce the supplier base to an effective level.
- To recognise the reliance of suppliers on Council business, encourage small businesses to trade with the Council and the wider business community (supplier adoption).
- To provide detailed analysis of spend patterns, regulate and monitor spend characteristics, both within the Council and within the CPI.

Attachments: Appendix A Procurement Strategy
Appendix B Action Plan
