

Procurement Strategy

The Council will:

1. Purchase goods and services from suppliers that provide best value for money, including through e-procurement opportunities, to support the Council's vision and Balanced Scorecard taking account of sustainability as part of whole life impact and costs.
2. Adopt the principles of Best Value, to seek continuous improvement, as the basis for the procurement of all its resource requirements. It will use a mixed economy of provision and appropriate procurement methods and techniques to ensure they provide transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and value for money.
3. Where appropriate, develop procurement on a partnering approach whereby both the Council and the provider seek to gain continuous improvement and maximise mutual benefit through longer-term clearly worded contracts.
4. Review the potential for alternative methods of service delivery to secure its longer term strategic requirements including examining:
 - (a) the potential for alternative methods of service delivery;
 - (b) innovative funding methods;
 - (c) partnership and inter-agency working; and
 - (d) the opportunities for developing and commissioning shared services and inter-authority working.
5. Procure goods and services in accordance with the Council's Environmental Purchasing Policy, and from suppliers that operate sound environmental policies and who have a commitment to diversity and equality of opportunities for their workforce and their customers.
6. Consult with staff in accordance with established processes and ensure that their views are considered and that their employment rights are protected when making procurement decisions that directly affect them.
7. Secure the procurement of goods and services as fast and efficiently as possible, having regard to:
 - (a) the procurement framework, rules and regulations set by European Union (EU) law, United Kingdom law;
 - (b) the Council's Finance and Contract Procedure rules set out in the Constitution;
 - (c) the professionalism, integrity, impartiality and honesty required of officers and members set out in the Council's codes of conduct;
 - (d) the financial modelling of any procurement options through the Council's business case appraisal process and risk management; and
 - (e) previous experience and outcomes, including alternative methods of service delivery and funding.
8. Use the collective bargaining power of consortia and marketplaces to secure economic and effective procurement of goods and services.

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9. Have regard to the Council's Environmental Purchasing Policy in the purchase of goods and services, including the minimum target of 40% of central purchasing supplies to be sources locally, in order to both minimise delivery distances and boost the local economy.
10. Seek advice from the provider market where this is appropriate concerning capacity, packaging of contracts, funding, method and innovation and use its position and purchasing power responsibly and impartially to encourage competition and the development of markets including:
 - (a) identifying potential opportunities by alternative contract packaging options encourage tendering by a wider range of small and medium size enterprises; and
 - (b) develop e-technologies in conjunction with the market and partners to reduce transaction costs, improve efficiency and improve the quality of management information.