

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX27/2023
Relevant Officer:	Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance
Date of Meeting:	10 July 2023

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider and note the content of the Council's Procurement Strategy and associated action plan for the period 2023 - 2027.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Procurement Strategy and associated action plan for the period until 31 December 2027.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure there is a clear and consistent procurement framework in place that aligns with the Council Plan. To acknowledge the role that procurement has to play in its contribution to delivering the Council’s ambitions in an innovative and robust manner taking into account local, regional and national priorities and drivers.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 The Council could decide not adopt a Procurement Strategy but that would be at odds with National guidance.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

6.0 Background information

6.1 The Council's current Procurement Strategy 2019–2023 is coming to the end of its life.

The primary purpose of the strategy is to communicate clearly to all of the Council's employees, partners, suppliers and stakeholders our vision for how procurement and commissioning of goods, works and services will be carried out and to articulate the role that procurement has in supporting the Council deliver its ambitions within the national, regional and local landscapes.

6.2 In order to build on previous achievements and set clear ambitions for improvement an action plan has been developed which has been informed by internal and external stakeholder engagement.

6.3 The national, regional and local contexts have been taken into consideration and the following themes aligned with the National Procurement Strategy form the basis upon which the action plan has been developed;

- Showing Leadership
- Behaving Commercially
- Achieving Community Benefits
- Enabling Action

6.4 Critical to the national context in the strategy will be the ‘post Brexit’ reform of procurement legislation which will be implemented early in the life of the strategy. Procurement at Blackpool Council will need to be responsive to the new legislation and this is reflected in a number of the actions within the strategy.

6.5 The importance of social value, facilitated through procurement, is highlighted within the strategy and the weighting of social value at 20% of the total award criteria of tenders will continue.

6.6 Progress relating to the delivery of the action plan will be reported to Corporate Leadership Team and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Procurement at least annually.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 3a - Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2027

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 The delivery of value for money through commissioning and procurement activity is a key element of the Behaving Commercially theme in the strategy. The requirement to deliver social value and maximise best value from every pound spent by the Council is detailed in the Achieving Community Benefits theme and places Social Value at the heart of our commissioning and procurement practices.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Public Sector procurement is heavily regulated and the importance of compliance with legislative requirements is integral to the delivery of the strategy. Reform to procurement legislation is a key theme running through the strategy.

10.0 Risk Management considerations:

10.1 The risk of having no high-level strategy in place will lead to a lack of a consistent framework across the Council which may result in an increased risk of challenge from the marketplace from unsuccessful bidders. A lack of appreciation of key themes and actions will result in being ill-prepared for future activity both at a national and local level, including reform to legislation.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 The strategy and the procurement regulations require equality of treatment for all prospective suppliers and service providers.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Sustainable procurement is built into the Council's commissioning and procurement

practices. Environmental considerations are one of the key themes considered in the Council's social value measures taking account of the promotion of sustainable procurement, reduction of carbon emissions and safeguarding our natural environment.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 A number of consultation exercises have informed the development of the Procurement Strategy including;

- Self-assessment against the National Strategy themes
- Internal stakeholder questionnaire of internal users of Procurement
- External stakeholder questionnaire of suppliers

The outcome of each of the consultation exercises are appended within the strategy.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 9/2023

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 30 June 2023 Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1 Ms Cath Bagley, Head of Procurement, presented the new Procurement Strategy to the Executive for approval. Ms Bagley highlighted that the Council spent more than £200million per year on the commissioning of goods, works and services and this level of spend provided an opportunity to deliver the Council's objectives by contributing to economic, social and environmental gains for the town as a whole. Councillor Ivan Taylor as relevant Cabinet Member emphasised that the strategy would aim to deliver on the social value by ensuring that procurement actions contributed towards local jobs, the local economy and the local supply chain, met community needs and maximised the value from the Council's spending.

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendation as outlined above namely:

To approve the Procurement Strategy and associated action plan for the period until 31 December 2027.

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1 10 July 2023

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 To ensure there is a clear and consistent procurement framework in place that aligns with the Council Plan. To acknowledge the role that procurement has to play in its contribution to delivering the Council's ambitions in an innovative and robust manner taking into account local, regional and national priorities and drivers.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 11 July 2023

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1 The Executive noted that it could decide not adopt a Procurement Strategy but that would be at odds with National guidance.

25.0 Executive Members in attendance:

25.1 Councillor Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Benson, N Brookes, Burdess, Farrell, Hugo, M Smith and Taylor

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1 The Following Non-Executive Members were in attendance: Councillors Hunter, Marshall and Webb.