

Cabinet

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| Report Title | Commissioning Strategy for Westmorland and Furness |
| Date of Meeting | 30 April 2024 |
| Report Author | Assistant Director Commissioning & Procurement |
| Director | Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) |
| Lead Cabinet Member | Cabinet Member for Finance |
| Why is this a key decision? | <p>1. An executive decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates NO</p> <p>2. or is likely to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the Council. For these purposes, savings and expenditure are "significant" if they are equal to or greater than £500,000. NO</p> <p>For clarification, no treasury management decision shall constitute a Key Decision.</p> |
| Wards Affected | All |
| Identify exempt information and exemption category | None |
| Reasons for urgency (only where applicable) | n/a |
| Appendices (if any) | Appendix 1: Commissioning Strategy Appendix 2: Equality Screening |

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends Cabinet approves the Commissioning Strategy 2024 – 2027
- 1.2 The Commissioning Strategy sets out the organisational approach to commissioning with an overall objective of achieving better outcomes for residents. It is intended to be an easy read high level summary which provides stakeholders with an overview of our approach to commissioning.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the Commissioning Strategy 2024 – 2027.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

3.1 The Commissioning Strategy is one of the Council's foundational strategies that will support the delivery of the Council's vision and priorities. It describes our approach to become an "innovative and effective commissioning organisation, with access to vibrant and sustainable markets whilst maintaining positive trusted relationships with our partners.

3.2 The strategy is set within the context of the Council Plan and our vision to make Westmorland and Furness "a great place to live, work and thrive" whilst supporting our economy and culture to achieve "sustainable, inclusive, economic growth" and making sure "customers and communities needs are at the heart of designing our services".

3.3 The expectation is that through the delivery of this commissioning approach we will start to change the focus and impact we as a Council want to achieve through the delivery of our services. It will also ensure that for each service area, options around future delivery are challenged and assessed through the commissioning approach with no bias towards any preference to insourcing / outsourcing.

3.4 The implementation of the strategy will allow us to:

- Deliver better outcomes for residents by designing services which are **needs-led, data and intelligence driven and informed by experience**
- provide the most efficient and **best value** use of Council resources in the most economic, efficient, effective and sustainable way
- facilitate transformational change and continuous improvement to deliver **improved outcomes for our residents** whilst delivering our operating model principles
- ensure we are a responsible organisation enabling our services to deliver on our responsibilities for environmental, social and governance factors

3.5 The Westmorland & Furness Commissioning Strategy, the Procurement Strategy and the Social Value (Commissioning & Procurement) Statement all work together as a suite of documents. We are seeking approval of all 3 at the same time to support this approach.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)

4.1 The Commissioning Strategy supports the operations of the whole Council and will support the delivery of all Council Plan priorities.

5. Consultation Outcomes

5.1 The Commissioning Strategy has been informed through engagement across the Service and other Council Officers as appropriate. The feedback from

this engagement was developed with research and review of best practice and models from other local authorities.

- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Members have considered and discussed the development of strategy; and feedback incorporated into the final draft.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Members may decide not to approve the Commissioning Strategy, or they may decide to amend the strategy to reflect a different approach to commissioning.

7. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 7.1 Given the emphasis on ensuring commissioning decisions support how services are delivered, help us achieve our financial sustainability and deliver our change agenda – it is important to describe what commissioning is and how we will use this approach across the organisation. Without an agreed approach there is a risk that we do not maximise the potential of adopting a commissioning approach when making decisions about services.

8. Climate and Biodiversity Implications

- 8.1 This strategy refers the Commissioning Cycle and the importance of collating data and intelligence to support commissioning decisions and developing a commissioning plan. The data collected and considered as part of the analyse stage will include that to support the current service performance in relation to our climate and biodiversity priorities.
- 8.2 As we consider our options and develop a commissioning plan – we will be developing clear outcomes for the services moving forward, including supporting the delivery of climate and biodiversity priorities.
- 8.3 If there is a decision to undertake a procurement exercise in order to achieve the commissioning intentions, then the impact of the service on our Environment, Social and Governance responsibilities (including climate and biodiversity) will be further assessed and evaluated.

9. Legal and Governance Implications

- 9.1 The Commissioning Strategy supports the operations of the whole Council and will support the delivery of all Council Plan priorities. Cabinet is authorised to accept the recommendation to approve the Commissioning Strategy 2024 – 2027

10. Human Resources Health Wellbeing and Safety Implications

- 10.1 The Council has a responsibility under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable that there are arrangements in place to ensure a healthy and safe working environment for all services for

which it has responsibility. There are no direct Human Resources implications arising from this report/OD.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 There are no direct financial implications from the agreeing the Commissioning Strategy 2024-2027. However, the delivery of Commissioning Strategy will have financial implications in supporting the Council's future financial sustainability, decision-making, and value for money. The individual decisions around commissioning will follow the usual governance processes. Capacity within the Commissioning Service was revised as part of the budget setting for 2024/25 and it is anticipated that this will be sufficient to support delivery of the Commissioning Strategy.
- 11.2 This additional resource available to deliver the strategy is partly within the experienced commissioning team, but also within Directorates and a business partnering approach has been adopted.

12. Equality and Diversity Implications (please ensure these are compliant with the EIA Guidance)

- 12.1 Equality Screening is provided in Appendix 2

13. Background Documents

- 13.1 Not applicable