

Cabinet

Report Title	Procurement Strategy for Westmorland and Furness
Date of Meeting	30 April 2024
Report Author	Assistant Director Commissioning and 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. YES</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: Procurement Strategy 2024 – 2027 Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report recommends Cabinet approves the Procurement Strategy 2024 – 2027.
- 1.2 This strategy sets out our approach to the procurement of goods, works, services and utilities to ensure we deliver value for money, whilst maximising every pound spent and delivering financial sustainability.

2. Recommendations

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

- 2.1 Agree the Procurement Strategy 2024 – 2027.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The Procurement Strategy is one of the Council's foundational strategies that will support the delivery of the Council's vision and priorities. It defines our strategic approach to procurement for the next 3 years until 2027; and sets out our vision and priorities, incorporating the latest government procurement legislation whilst considering our local and national priorities.
- 3.2 Our vision for procurement is to work in partnership with internal and external stakeholders ensuring that procurement is carried out in an ethically, social and environmentally responsible way, that delivers value for money and long term benefits for the Council and the residents in Westmorland and Furness.
- 3.3 To support this vision, we introduce core principles in the way we procure goods, works, services and utilities in order to:
- ensure that services to be procured are designed around our residents and service users, putting their needs at the heart of everything we do
 - support local economic growth
 - work with local supply chains, the voluntary and community sector, and small to medium enterprises to upskill their workforce and increase opportunities
 - build greater connections across the region, working with key stakeholders, including suppliers, health and the third sector
 - work with local networks and institutions and increase opportunities for collaboration in procurement
 - attract, develop, upskill, train and retain talent within the Council
 - use public procurement transformation as a springboard to make procurement easier and more accessible for bidders, especially those in local supply chains
 - become forwards looking, using data and intelligence effectively to drive improved decision making, to ensure procurement activity is needs led and sustainable
 - take the professional lead in effective and meaningful contract, supplier relationship and supply chain management
 - embrace public procurement transformation and maximise innovation and work to continuously improve and streamline procurement activities
 - encourage and support the operation of effective markets in all sectors
- 3.4 This strategy also introduces the Procurement Cycle (as defined by the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply) as the model we will use in our procurement activity.

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

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

5. Consultation Outcomes

5.1 The Procurement 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 Procurement Strategy, or they may decide to amend the strategy to reflect a different approach to procurement.

7. Reasons for the Recommendations

7.1 Given the current emphasis on ensuring the procurement is given a role in the success of the council in delivering its vision and priorities and ensuring ongoing financial sustainability as pressure upon local government budgets continues to increase – it is important to describe what procurement is and how we will use an agreed approach across the organisation.

7.2 Without an agreed approach there is a risk that we do not maximise this potential and ensure the Council complies with the legal and regulatory framework underpinning public procurement.

8. Climate and Biodiversity Implications

8.1 The importance of Environmental, Social and Governance Factors in procurement is increasing important for the Council and includes addressing the implications of Climate change and Biodiversity through the procurement of goods, works, services and utilities.

8.2 Through the implementation of the Procurement Strategy, we will be looking at how we can how we can achieve the following through the procurement of goods, works, services and utilities:

- minimising negative environmental impacts, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving resources, preventing pollution
- increasing focus on the social factors that include human rights, fair labour practices, diversity and inclusion, and community engagement.
- addressing the ethical and responsible management of providers and their suppliers.

- 8.3 There is increasing pressure on procurement to manage their supply chains and to hold the increasingly accountable for their impact on the environment and society.

9. Legal and Governance Implications

- 9.1 Section 111 of the Local Government Act the Council has power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of its functions. Section 2 (1) of the Local Government Act 2000 enables local authorities to do anything they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area.

The Procurement Strategy builds on the Council's commitment to addressing the implications of Climate Change and Biodiversity through the procurement of goods, works, services and utilities, and sets out core principles the Council will consider in its procurement processes.

10. Human Resources Health Wellbeing and Safety Implications

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 financial implications from the agreeing the Procurement Strategy 2024-2027. However, the delivery of the 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 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 Procurement Strategy.

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.