

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 12th March 2012

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PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides the opportunity to scrutinise the Council's 2012-2015 Corporate Procurement Strategy. The report also provides the opportunity to inform, consult and seek the Committee's views on the Strategy prior to its ratification by Cabinet at its meeting on 12th March.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

That the Panel consider and comment on the Corporate Procurement Strategy.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Adding years to Life and Life to years**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- **Prosperity for All**

Corporate Procurement provides business support services to the Council in the delivery and achievement of the Council's strategic priorities.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The Council's Procurement Strategy is integral to the delivery of its Medium Term Financial Strategy and supporting strategies. Supporting strategies include the Capital Asset Strategy, Transactional Services Strategy, and service specific strategies relating to both universal and targeted provision provided to local residents. The strategy will support delivery of both corporate contract tendering and service area specific tendering to deliver cashable and non cashable benefits to the Council.

Specifically, it assist the council as it seeks to meet the planned of £745k over the next 2 years by securing savings of at least 4% on all contracts and commissioned services

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Implement Corporate Procurement Strategy across the Council	Implementation of the Procurement Strategy is: a) an opportunity to address the challenging times ahead	
	b) opportunity to obtain a shared understanding of Procurement across the Council clearly identifying the aims and objectives of Corporate Procurement	
	c) opportunity to embed a Corporate Strategy that supports both procurement activity that is focused on delivering transformation savings and commitment to supporting small businesses and the voluntary and community sector.	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The Corporate Procurement Strategy has been drafted in line with the Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 public sector equality duty.

Name of Policy	Corporate procurement Strategy 2012-2015
Update/new Policy	New Policy
Aims and Objectives of Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To embed effective procurement across the whole organisation using innovative, sustainable and modern procurement practices, harnessing a culture of

	<p>continuous improvement, whilst remaining flexible to a rapidly changing environment and new models of and partnerships in the delivery of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen guidance of procurement ▪ Increase accountability to encourage responsible spending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote business case culture ○ Focus procurement activities on value for money
How do the objectives relate to the Departmental Service Plans	The procurement strategy and procurement programme plan will become a formal feature of Service plans
Whose needs is the policy designed to meet?	The policy is designed to meet the needs of the council and service users conducting procurement activities
What are the profiles of the users of the services that the policy relates to?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Suppliers unknown – no visibility of who is going to express an interest in a contract opportunity b) Internal users
Equality & Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The procurement strategy enables all relevant types of contractors to bid for council contracts and ensures good practice in the award of contracts ▪ The strategy aims to remove all obstacles to conducting business with the council. ▪ The strategy supports the council in assisting local businesses, SME's, voluntary and community organisations to build their capacity to win contracts. ▪ The strategy promotes equality and opportunity and diversity and ensures that there is an equal opportunity for all

	<p>suppliers who meet the stated criteria to bid for contracts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No groups are excluded from tendering for council contracts ▪
What are the potentials to discriminate?	The potential to discriminate exists indirectly in the application of the procurement process by officers however officer have a duty to preserve the highest standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality and objectivity
Awareness of discrimination	The corporate procurement team advises officers on all procurement issues
Training	Training is essential in order to enable appropriate officers to act in accordance with the Procurement Strategy; particularly in relation to equalities. Training sessions will be offered to all officers involved in procurement activity in the new financial year,

4 **Supporting Information**

During 2011 the Council restructured the Corporate Procurement Team to build new capability into the procurement function. This has enabled a review of the Council strategic approach and the identification of key improvements to be made in procurement practice, as set out in the Council Procurement Strategy 2012-15.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

None.

7 **Conclusion**

The Committee is requested to consider and comment on the Strategy.

8. **Appendices-** 'A' Corporate Procurement Strategy.

9. **Background Papers**

None.