

**Committee:** Finance & Administration

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 28 January 2010

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**Title:** Corporate Procurement Strategy

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Item for decision

## Summary

1. A new Procurement Strategy has been developed, to set a clear framework and direction for procurement activity in the Council.
2. The Strategy will help the Council to achieve better value for money in its expenditure on supplies and services. The Strategy will help the Council to address weaknesses in its procurement arrangements and the criticisms arising from the Audit Commission Use of Resources inspection.
3. The strategy has been developed with the Senior Procurement Consultant of the Essex Procurement Hub, with whom the Council has a Service Level Agreement for the provision of procurement support and consultancy.
4. New Contract Standing Orders that take account of the principles in the new strategy, modern procurement methods and the current business needs of the Council, are in development and will be brought to this Committee for approval in March.

## Recommendations

5. The Committee is recommended to approve the Procurement Strategy as attached to this report.

## Background Papers

None.

## Impact

Communication/Consultation	SMB, Heads of Division and Cllr Rolfe have been consulted.
Community Safety	No specific implications
Equalities	An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed (attached to the Strategy) with no issues requiring attention.
Finance	No specific implications at this stage, but the Procurement Strategy sets a framework by which better value for money and cost savings can be achieved.

Health and Safety	Health and safety requirements are a key feature of the strategy.
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Compliance with EC purchasing law is addressed by the strategy.
Sustainability	Sustainability and social responsibility standards are expected of suppliers.
Ward-specific impacts	No specific implications
Workforce/Workplace	No specific implications

### Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Actions in the Procurement Strategy are not implemented	2	3 (the Council will be unable to demonstrate progress)	The actions have been built into workplans and contacts made with external advisers who can support the process.

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.