

Committee: Finance & Administration

Agenda Item

Date: 24 March 2011

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Title: Procurement Strategy 2011/12

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Item for decision

Summary

1. The 2010/11 Procurement Strategy, adopted in January 2010, has been revised and updated. The 2011/12 strategy is attached for Members' consideration.
2. The year 2010/11 has seen significant changes in the Council's procurement arrangements, most importantly withdrawal from the Essex Procurement Hub and the recruitment of a new procurement manager. This has enabled a much more proactive and tailored approach with expertise and capacity to progress corporate initiatives as well as supporting service-based purchasing work. The 2011/12 strategy details the achievements made during 2010/11.
3. Building upon the advancements in 2010/11, 2011/12 will be an eventful year for procurement. A major project is underway to introduce purchasing cards for lower value transactions and for major suppliers, and work is being done to make it easier for local suppliers to access opportunities to tender for council contracts.

Recommendations

4. The Committee is recommended to approve the Procurement Strategy for 2011/12 as attached to this report.

Financial Implications

5. There are no direct financial implications. The costs of implementing the Action Plan can be met from Improvement East funding.

Background Papers

6. None.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	To inform development of the Action Plan visits were made to other organisations. The initiatives were discussed with the Uttlesford Futures Economic Development Skills & Learning Group on 7 March.
Community Safety	None
Equalities	The Procurement Strategy has undergone an Equalities Impact Assessment with no issues arising.
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 (the Procurement Manager has the capacity to take these issues forward)	3 (the Council will be unable to demonstrate progress)	The actions have been built into workplans and will be monitored through the Council's performance management framework.

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.