

Committee: Governance, Audit and Performance Committee

Date:

Title: Procurement Strategy - 2022 - 2026

Thursday 29
September 2022

Report Author: Angela Knight, Assistant Director - Resources
aknight@uttlesford.gov.uk

Summary

1. The Procurement Strategy sets out the Council's vision for its procurement activity over the next four years.
2. The Strategy includes the aims of the Council to ensure all procurement activities are delivered in an economic, environmentally, and socially responsible ways, whilst delivering value for money for the Council and promoting the long-term interests of the communities, residents and businesses in Uttlesford.
3. The Strategy delivery plan is set out over three phases to enable a realistic and achievable action plan to be developed and to ensure that good practice is embedded in each phase.

Recommendations

4. The Committee is requested to recommend The Procurement Strategy, attached as Appendix A for approval by the Council.

Financial Implications

5. No direct financial implications from the Strategy.

Background Papers

6. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

- 7.

Communication/Consultation	Corporate Management Team and Informal Cabinet Briefing
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

National Procurement Strategy

8. The Local Government Association (LGA) launched the National Procurement Strategy (NPS) in 2018, and this was refreshed in August 2022. The NPS focuses on three key themes for the next four years:
 - Showing leadership
 - Behaving commercially
 - Achieving community benefits
9. The procurement strategy has been developed based on consideration of the above themes and will identify key strategic areas and enablers from the NPS which will align with the context of the Council's local and regional priorities.
10. The LGA has developed a toolkit to support delivery of the NPS for Local Government in England 2018. Its purpose is to help councils to set objectives in relation to the maturity levels in each of the key areas of the strategy and to assess their own progress against those objectives.
11. There are five levels of maturity each providing guidance and criteria for assessment against each level.

Minimum → Developing → Mature → Leader → Innovator
12. The NPS Toolkit will be completed during the autumn to assess levels of maturity in each of the key areas of the strategy and to assess Uttlesford's own progress against those objectives. A report detailing the outputs of the assessment will be brought to the Governance, Audit and Performance Committee in November.

Uttlesford Procurement Strategy 2022-26

13. The delivery plan for the Strategy is set out over three phases.
 - I. National Themes, Measures and Outcomes (includes Social Value)
 - II. Climate change
 - III. Contract Management
14. The Procurement Strategy includes the introduction of the use of the National Themes Measures and Outcomes (TOMS).
15. The National TOMs framework is widely recognised as the best standard for measuring and reporting on social value and this is supported by the Local Government Association.
16. Measures include supporting young people into work, opportunities for disadvantaged people, improving staff health and wellbeing, ethical procurement, social value in supply chains, supporting community projects, and reducing carbon emissions.
17. For every £1 generated, the Council will be able to quantify in pounds the wider value created for society. A briefing note is attached as Appendix B providing a full explanation on 'What is Social Value', the paper includes a worked example demonstrating how this is applied and calculated in the procurement process.

18. The Strategy aims to align with the Council's Corporate Priorities, specifically focusing on Climate Change.
19. Contract Management is shown as phase three as the Council is currently implementing a new structure to provide support to this phase. It is expected to have fully implemented the structure by the end of the current calendar year.
20. Full details of the Council's Procurement Strategy and the procurement activities are set out in Appendix A.

Risk Analysis

21.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Key aims and priorities are not considered when procuring goods and services	2 – contracts and purchase orders are raised without knowledge of the procurement team	2 – it may be necessary for intervention to ensure the goods/service are compliant	All procurement activity is governed by the Contract Procedure Rules available to all officers and managed by an experienced team of procurement officers.

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.