



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Name and Date of Committee	EXECUTIVE – 13 SEPTEMBER 2023
Subject	PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Wards Affected	ALL
Accountable Member	Councillor Dan Levy – Executive Member for Finance Email: dan.levy@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable Officer	Phil Martin – Assistant Director, Business Services Email: phil.martin@publicagroup.uk
Report Author	Ciaran O’Kane – Senior Procurement Business Partner Email – ciarano.kane@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To present an updated draft Procurement and Contract Management Strategy for comment and consideration by Executive.
Annexes	Annex A – Procurement and Contract Management Strategy
Recommendation(s)	<i>That the Executive Resolves to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><i>1. Approve the updated Procurement and Contract Management Strategy;</i><i>2. Delegate authority to the Director of Governance to amend the approved Contract Procedure Rules to remove reference to the obsolete Procurement Strategy and Procurement Code, which the Procurement and Contract Management Strategy will replace.</i>
Corporate Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Putting Residents First● A Good Quality of Life for All● A Better Environment for People and Wildlife● Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency● Working Together for West Oxfordshire
Key Decision	NO

Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	West Oxfordshire District Council – Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Leadership Management Team Publica Commissioning and Procurement Board.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The revision of the current Procurement and Contract Management Strategy was partly in response to the Internal Audit recommendation as well as the Team recognising the importance of the Council having a Strategy that incorporated the latest available guidance from Central Government including Social Value and Climate Change.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 The current version of the Procurement Strategy has in place since 2015. Following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, Central Government advised that an overhaul of the 2015 Public Procurement Regulations would take place. The new Procurement Bill is encountering a number of delays and had yet to be laid before parliament.
- 2.2 The Government introduce updates to current legislation through the publication of Procurement Policy Notes (PPN's). This draft Procurement and Contract Management Strategy includes all relevant updates.
- 2.3 An update from Central Government in Spring 2023 confirmed that the new Procurement Bill would not be published until 2024, at the earliest, which the team felt was too long to wait for. Therefore, the proposed Procurement and Contract Management Strategy now incorporates current relevant best practice as well as the latest information from Government.
- 2.4 Depending on what comes out of the new Procurement Bill, further revisions to the Strategy may be required.
- 2.5 Following the approval of this Procurement and Contract Management Strategy, references to out-of-date documentation will need to be amended in the Contract Procedure Rules to ensure that there is consistency in terminology across all Procurement documentation.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The alternative option is to wait until the Procurement Bill has been laid in parliament and prepare a new Procurement and Contract Management Strategy.
- 3.2 This would not be in line with best practise.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The updated Procurement and Contract Management Strategy will ensure that Social Value and the climate change agenda are embedded in both the commissioning and procurement process.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications from this report. However, compliance with the Councils Contract Rules will support the best use of taxpayers' money.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications from this report or the Strategy, however the Council continues to have a legal duty to comply with the Public Contract Regulations.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 There is a potential risk that the Procurement and Contract Management Strategy may need to be further update when the Procurement Bill is laid in Parliament. The Procurement team will advise accordingly if significant updates are required.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no specific equalities implications from this report however the Council continues to have a legal duty to comply with Modern Slavery legislation.

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Strategy has been revised to recognise the importance of climate change and the Council's key priority to become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.
- 9.2 The Strategy recognises that supply chains are the biggest contributor to the overall carbon output of local councils and advocates engaging with suppliers at the earliest opportunity to make climate intentions and ambitions clear at the pre-procurement stages is key to reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Not Applicable

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