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| <b>Subject:</b>                      | <b>Procurement and Partnering Strategy</b>  |
| <b>Director/Head of Service:</b>     | Director of Corporate Services  |
| <b>Decision Issues:</b>              | These matters are within the authority of the Council   |
| <b>Decision type:</b>                | Key   |
| <b>Classification:</b>               | This report is open to the public.  |
| <b>CCC Ward(s):</b>                  | <b>All</b>  |
| <b>Summary:</b>                      | <i>The Council's Procurement and Partnering Strategy is reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the council's community and corporate plans, provides a framework for best value and which stands alongside the council's contract standing orders and constitution. The revised strategy is set out at Appendix 1.</i> |
| <b>To Recommend to Full Council:</b> | <b>That the Council adopts the revised Procurement and Partnering Strategy as set out at Appendix 1</b>   |
| <b>Next stage in process</b>         | <b>To recommend to Council</b>  |

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1. Introduction**

The Council's existing procurement strategy and purchasing guidance was revised substantially in response to the National Procurement Strategy. Good procurement is a key to the achievement of the council's objectives. It is reviewed annually to ensure that it reflects current corporate objectives and to set targets for achieving procurement best practice and meeting the national agenda.

### **2. Detail**

#### **Strategy**

The revised strategy is set out at Appendix 1. Key changes are:

- a) Updating the key actions in section 1.3 and making them current rather than a reflection of past actions.
- b) Updating the Background information in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5. to reflect recent developments.
- c) Updating the current arrangements in section 3 to incorporate improvements and achievements over the past year.
- d) Updating the council's vision in section 4.2 to reflect the new Corporate Plan 2008 – 2012.
- e) Updating the council's 7 themes in section 4.3 to reflect the new Corporate Plan 2008 – 2012.

f) Reviewing and updating the Action Plan.

### 3. **Relevant Council Policy/Strategies/Budgetary Documents**

As stated in the summary the revised strategy reflects the council's community and corporate plans.

### 4. **Consultation planned or undertaken**

In view of the impact of procurement upon the local economy the local business community has been consulted through C4B.

The draft strategy was circulated in advance of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September for comment.

The feedback has been very positive with recognition of the ways in which the council is informing its business partners and trying to make it easier for businesses to contract with the local authority while complying with the requirements of national and EU legislation and supporting the local economy through its procurement practices.

The revised strategy was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 October for consideration and was accepted as presented.

### 5. **Options available with reasons for suitability**

1. To accept the revised strategy as written
2. To recommend changes to the strategy

### 6. **Reasons for supporting option recommended, with risk assessment**

The strategy has been revised in the light of experience and with the aim of balancing the conflicting demands of achieving efficiency savings and the wider consideration of best value, social and environmental impacts.

### 7. **Implications**

- (a) Financial Implications - Sound procurement practice helps to achieve economies and efficiencies in service delivery. The Procurement & Partnering Strategy centres on best value.
- (b) Legal Implications - The council is obliged to comply with EU and national procurement legislation. The strategy has been written to secure compliance while balancing this with the council's own corporate and community objectives.
- (c) Environmental/Sustainability Implications – Environmental considerations are included in the strategy this allows the council to consider procurement, which can reduce the environmental impact of supplying goods and services.
- (d) Equalities – The Procurement & Partnering Strategy requires equalities issues to be considered as part of the procurement process.

**8. Conclusions**

The approach to procurement adopted by officers across the council is to select the most appropriate means of service delivery based on a proper analysis of the business case. The procurement and partnering strategy provides a suitable framework to achieve this in the context of the council's own corporate and community plans.

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