



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Scrutiny Commission	29 August 2024
Executive	11 September 2024

Wards affected: All

Sustainable Procurement Policy

Report of Head of Finance

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval of members to adopt a sustainable procurement policy to support our climate change strategy and how to promote ethical standards and reduce exploitation in our procurement activities in accordance with the constitution.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Scrutiny Commission endorses the policy and recommends it to Executive for approval.

3. Background

- 3.1 Increasing numbers of councils are now incorporating environmental and ethical standards into their procurement processes, giving them more influence over the procurement process.
- 3.2 Sustainable procurement is about incorporating environmental, social, and economic concerns into all procurement activities. The Government established Sustainable Procurement Task Force has defined sustainable procurement as:

a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

- 1.3. In January 2024 the Council approved changes to the constitution that allows for procurement to taken to account the specific requirement to consider how our purchasing power can contribute toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition the changes also included a commitment that procurement will also take into account ethical standards in a manner that minimises the risk of social exploitation and rewards good employment practices.
- 1.4 This also support the climate change emergency declared in July 2019 and the biodiversity emergency declared in July 2023.
- 1.5 The attached policy will aim to widen the definition of the overriding requirement to achieve VFM by including room for the consideration to be wider than just acquisition costs, but include ownership / running costs, disposal costs and sustainability costs (both Environmental and Social). It gives guidance on evaluation of these areas.
- 1.6 It also promotes how purchasing can help the Council in using its purchasing power in “Supporting the Local Economy” and “Ensuring high ethical standards”. These clearly link to the priorities of the Corporate Plan.

4 Implications

- 4.1 The Council will be able to demonstrate a positive approach to climate change strategy and how to promote ethical standards in it purchasing. Training will be required in these areas, and our approach will have to be included in the way we work with our Welland Procumbent Service. This will take some time to embed in the way we purchase items into our normal processes.

5. Financial implications [AW]

- 5.1 None directly from this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 For contracts likely to have a significant sustainability impact, consideration must be given to The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. This act places a responsibility on all public sector bodies to consider, before the procurement process starts, the economic, environmental and social benefits of their approaches to procuring goods or services. For the purposes of this policy, any procurement activity to which the (PCR) Public Contracting Regulations (2015) apply are in scope; however, the application of the Act should be proportionate to the scale and likely impact of the goods and / or services being procured.

7. Corporate Plan implications

- 7.1 A sustainable procurement policy supports the key aspects of the corporate plan of People, Places and Prosperity:

8. Consultation

8.1 None

9. Risk implications

9.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

It is not possible to eliminate or manage all the risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

No significant risks are associated with this report.

10. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

10.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

11. Climate implications

11.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. However how we procure directly affect the council's abilities to invest in climate change priorities.

12. Corporate implications

12.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: None

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