

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, 20 APRIL 2023**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Procurement Strategy Review</b>			
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To propose a review to update the Council's Procurement Strategy in line with the LGA's National Procurement Strategy for Local Government published in August 2022.			
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>The Committee RESOLVES to approve the review to update the Council's Procurement Strategy.</b>			
<b>Consultation</b>	Annual updates on procurement to the Strategy & Resources and Audit & Standards Committees. Consultation will be undertaken as part of the review of the Procurement Strategy			
<b>Report Author</b>	Sarah Turner, Senior Policy and Governance Officer Email: sarah.turner@stroud.gov.uk			
<b>Options</b>	None.			
<b>Background Papers</b>	The Local Government Association's - National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England 2022 – link <a href="#">here</a> .			
<b>Appendices</b>	None.			
<b>Implications (further details at the end of the report)</b>	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The primary function of the council's Procurement Strategy 2019-2023 is to provide a clear vision for the overall direction of procurement across the authority with a specific focus on demonstrating value for money through the effective procurement of goods, services and works on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits to the community and the organisation, whilst minimising impacts to the environment.
- 1.2 The importance of procurement in the public sector continues to grow and there is increasing pressure to improve procurement performance. This has been recognised in the Council Plan, and the Equality Action plan with specific actions relation to procurement:
- ER4.3 Support procurement from local businesses and drive local spending on low carbon goods and services to create stronger supply chains within the local economy. This may include collaborative partnerships with local anchor institutions to encourage community wealth building.
  - EQ2.2 Embed the use of the Social Value Portal, a tool which enables the Council to monitor the additional community benefits of Council procurement.
- 1.3 The National Procurement Strategy (NPS) for Local Government in England has been developed by councils and endorsed by the Local Government Association's Procurement National Advisory Group. The NPS was published in August 2022 and sets out recommendations for district councils in relation to procurement and contract management activity. The new national strategy builds on the procurement aims from the two previous national procurement strategy of 2014 and 2018, where the key themes have remained

the same as the last strategy and are: **showing leadership; behaving commercially; achieving community benefits.**

- 1.4 This report sets out a proposal to carry out a thorough review of the Council's Procurement Strategy to ensure that the refresh of the National Procurement Strategy is considered and improvements identified to ensure the council's procurement activities continue to be undertaken to a high standard, efficiently and effectively to achieve best value, and to support social value benefits.

## 2. REVIEW OF THE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

- 2.1 In order to conduct a thorough review of the Procurement Strategy, the following key actions have been identified:

- 2.1.1 **Complete the LGA Self-assessment toolkit:** The LGA have created a procurement toolkit which enables the councils to understand the maturity of the procurement function, set goals and assess progress. The toolkit is for guidance only and essentially, the self-assessment will help us identify areas of improvement. The results of the assessment are therefore crucial in informing the development of the revised procurement strategy and action plan. to make self-assessment relating to the maturity of procurement and contract management activity across the Council. This self-assessment will be undertaken, and the results in the development of the strategy and procurement action plan.

- 2.1.2 **Complete the TIDE assessment:** TIDE (Talent, Inclusion and Diversity Evaluation) is a self-assessment and benchmarking tool developed by the Employers Network for Equality and Inclusion (ENEI) and contributes to the work of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. The assessment will measure the organisation's approach and progress on diversity and inclusion in 8 areas, one of which is procurement. The procurement element encourages the Council to engage with suppliers in the development and implementation of their equality and diversity policies.

- 2.1.3 **Develop a Forward Procurement Plan:** We aim to produce a Forward Procurement Plan which will require consultation with SLT and managers, finance colleagues and cross reference with the corporate contracts register. The Forward Plan will be produced annually and will enable us to properly plan for procurement, provide a level of transparency of the council's procurement and raise awareness of suppliers to the council's procurement activities.

- 2.1.4 **Work with the Corporate Governance Group:** A Corporate Governance Group has recently been established, and part of this group's role will be to have oversight of procurement and contract management activity across the authority; and to identify where additional support for services may be needed. It is anticipated that the Governance Group will review the current strategy and assist in identifying improvements, the role of the governance group will also need be reflected in the revised procurement strategy.

**Development of the Social Value Portal:** The Social Value Portal usage in procurement processes will continue to be developed and measured to increase the amount of community benefits achieved across the district as a result of procurement and contract management activity.

**2.1.5 Review Procurement guidance:** Guidance provided to officers undertaking procurement is currently under review and consultation with officers as part of this process will inform amendments to the strategy. Training provision to improve and develop procurement skills for officers will also form part of the review and be incorporated into the revised Strategy.

**2.1.6 Develop measures to monitor performance:** Metrics will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the Council's procurement and contract management activity and allow us to set more specific targets going forward. For example, performance measures could include the annual percentage of local spend, and the amount of social value brought to the district.

2.2 It is anticipated that a full review of the Procurement Strategy and development of the reviewed Strategy will take 6 months. Following this, the revised Procurement Strategy including the findings of the above assessments will be presented to Strategy and Resources Committee for approval.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS**

#### **3.1 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications to this decision. Any implications of the new Strategy will be considered when it is reported back to committee.

Andrew Cummings, Strategic Director of Resources  
Tel: 01453 754115 Email: [andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk)

#### **3.2 Legal Implications**

One Legal welcomes the opportunity to comment on the procurement strategy and be involved in the review of the procurement guidance and development of the forward plan given our important role in the procurement process. When drafting this strategy, regard will need to be had to the potential impact of the changes to the procurement legislation coming into forces in 2024.

These changes will also require the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules to be updated which will require input of One Legal.

Donna Ruck, Senior Lawyer, One Legal  
Tel: 01684 272017 Email: [legalservices@onelegal.org.uk](mailto:legalservices@onelegal.org.uk)

#### **3.3 Equality Implications**

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

#### **3.4 Environmental Implications**

There are no significant implications within this category. Environment and sustainability considerations form part of the Council's procurement and contract management processes.

The use of the Social Value Portal in procurement and contract management activity enables the Council to measure the amount of Social Value across the district through the Themes, Outcomes and Measures selected by the successful supplier.