

29th November 2016

Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

Procurement Strategy - 2016 to 2019

Report of: *Philip Ruck, Chief Executive*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks Members to approve the Council's Procurement Strategy for 2016 to 2019.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Agree the Council's Procurement Strategy for 2016 to 2019 attached as Appendix A.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The current economic climate is constantly presenting challenges to officers responsible for undertaking and managing significant procurement exercises. There is a need to think differently and develop new ideas and strategies in all stages of the commercial cycle in order to increase efficiency and maximize savings.
- 3.2 As part of its commitment to obtaining best possible value the Council commissioned the East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) to conduct a review of all the Council's Procurement activities. EELGA's partner, SPS Consultancy Services Ltd, was brought in to conduct the review, which included a workshop where officers were able to discuss their views, and, in individual private interviews, highlight any issues they felt needed addressing.
- 3.3 The results from this exercise of listening to those working in the field were coupled with modern thinking around procurement to produce new, up-to-date, and forward-looking Procurement Strategy that will direct our procurement activities over the next three years. The Procurement is attached as Appendix A.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The current procurement strategy is now out of date and needs revising.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 Effective procurement practice is essential to the Council's financial standing and reputation.
- 5.2 This new Procurement Strategy will give the Council one central strategic direction that can be communicated to all staff.
- 5.3 It highlights the importance of good practice at all stages of the commercial cycle.
- 5.4 The new Strategy brings the Council's practice up to date and make provision for improving Social Value within the local community.
- 5.5 It reflects modern trends towards collaborative supplier relationships and ties in with recent training in contract management offered to all staff.
- 5.6 Emphasises the areas where savings can be made.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The Council consulted with the Local Government Association who engaged SPS Consultancy Ltd to consult with officers responsible for procurements, whose views informed the new strategy.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 The Strategy refers to the Vision for Brentwood corporate plan in that it sets out how the Council should manage the expenditure that goes through the commercial cycle, with the intention of delivering the most cost effective and appropriate financial and social outcomes for the residents of the Borough.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Ramesh Prashar, Financial Services Manager

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- 8.1 None

Legal Implications

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8.2 None

9. Background Papers

9.1 None

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A - Council's Procurement Strategy for 2016 to 2019

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