

Scrutiny Committee – 2nd March 2010

8. Corporate Procurement

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Purpose of the Report

To update the Scrutiny Committee on the impact of the Procurement Strategy that Management Board and full Council approved in late 2006.

Action Required

That Scrutiny Committee notes the report and arrangements in place for organising and managing procurement at the Council.

Report

The Committee will be given a verbal update, of the contents of the strategy and the external drivers that influenced its creation & adoption.

The following indicates and highlights to members the progress that Corporate Procurement has made and the areas of activity, in relation to the Procurement Strategy.

The recent Use of Resources audit carried out by the Audit Commission commented: -

“The Council has a clear and robust approach to procurement, with well-developed rules supported by examples of good practice, building on the Council's good understanding of its costs. The Council uses service redesign to achieve greater change, including outsourcing.”

The corporate procurement resource, has achieved much over the last 3 years since its inception, some examples of these are listed below: -

- Produced Procurement Strategy (now being revised).
- Initiated and put in place a number of central contracts.
- Developed and deployed a Purchasing card scheme.
- Deployed new printing technology.
- Used an E. Auction to obtain a supplier for a print management contract.
- Initiated a central Contracts register.
- Put in place e. procurement system for centrally let contracts, leading to greater efficiencies.

- Reduced Co 2 emissions from Office supplies by as much as 20% over the last year
- Produced model contracts and large amounts of guidance on the Intranet site for staff to access.
- Formed Procurement Champions group in order that the procurement message is embraced corporately.
- Produced an approved supplier list for Construction and construction related companies.
- Moved 30% office supplies to Green/environmental products on an approved standard list.
- All major contracts let during this time have allowed for others to join if interested (collaboration)
- Produced a new set of procurement procedure rules to replace the old and out of date Standing orders for contracts.
- Initiated a central budget and corporate control over ICT hardware purchases for desktop equipment from a single supplier.
- Delivered cash savings on all centrally controlled budgets via price reduction and better control.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

All corporate themes will or can be impacted by procurement.

Other Implications

Our hard earned use of resource score from the District Auditor could be at risk if we do not continue to drive procurement best practice into the organisation and the procurement procedures that under pin them.

Background Papers: *Procurement procedure rules*
Existing Procurement Strategy
