



REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL
DATE:	13 th NOVEMBER 2023
SUBJECT:	PROCUREMENT STRATEGY - 2023-2026
PURPOSE:	TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT A NEW PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR 2023-2026
KEY DECISION:	NO
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR SANDEEP GHOSH
REPORT OF:	MARTIN GIBBS, HEAD OF PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS
REPORT AUTHOR:	MARTIN GIBBS, HEAD OF PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

In March 2023, Council approved its Annual Delivery Plan 23/24, which included a specific action to bring forward a Procurement Strategy for adoption. This was also a key strand of the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Business Case, recognising that through joint procurement the Councils could deliver significant savings.

The Strategy is particularly important at this time, given the scale of projects the Council has underway through the Towns' Fund and Levelling Up Agendas; and the associated joint procurement opportunities with its partner Councils. The combined spend of the Partnership Councils on capital projects in the coming years will be in excess of £100million.

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Procurement Strategy for the period 2023 – 2026. The Council has not had a Procurement Strategy in place for a number of years. By having this strategy formally in place, it provides a clear strategy for Procurement throughout the next 3 years.

Full Council is asked to approve Procurement Strategy at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Full Council approves the Procurement Strategy at Appendix 1

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- To ensure that the Council has a clear Procurement Strategy for the next 3 years.
- To agree a single approach to procurement across the Partnership that maximises the savings opportunities for the Councils.
- To ensure compliance with audit requirements as some of the Partner Councils have had audit recommendations to update their Procurement Strategies.
- To help support key Council priorities, such as sourcing local suppliers, procuring sustainably and ethically.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To do nothing – this would result in the Council continuing to have no formal Procurement Strategy in place.

1. REPORT

- 1.1** In April 2023, it was formally approved that the Procurement & Contracts service was to be provided by Public Sector Partnership Services Limited (PSPSL). It was also agreed within the SELCP Annual Delivery Plan. As part of this, a review noted that there was currently no Procurement Strategy in place.
- 1.2** As part of the preparatory work to ensure the service was ready to go live for April 2023, the Contract Procedure Rules were reviewed and updated so that they were aligned across the SELCP. This process was fully approved at each of the Councils in December 2022 / January 2023.
- 1.3** Audit recommendations at both South Holland District Council and East Lindsey District Council included a requirement for a Procurement Strategy to be in place, and therefore it is proposed to adopt a Procurement Strategy at Boston Borough Council too as this will likely be an audit recommendation in the future, as it is deemed best practice for Local Authorities to have a Procurement Strategy adopted and implemented.
- 1.4** The proposed Procurement Strategy at **Appendix 1** to this report seeks to provide a strategy and commitments to be delivered over the course of the proposed 3-year period. It details ways in which the team will aspire to work and improve the service over the next 3 years, noting there are a number of large Grant Funding projects ongoing, and upcoming (Levelling Up Funding and Towns Fund, for example). As well as these larger projects, the Procurement Strategy also details that a clear focus for the team will be to help secure financial savings through joint procurement across the SELCP.
- 1.5** The proposed Procurement Strategy links in with the National Procurement Strategy that was reviewed in 2022. The National Procurement Strategy focusses on three key themes. These being “Showing Leadership”, “Behaving Commercially”, and “Achieving Community Benefits”.

- 1.6** The proposed Procurement Strategy also provides a clear strategy on Sustainable Procurement, Ethical Procurement, and a definition of “What is Local”.
- 1.7** The draft Strategy was considered by the relevant scrutiny committee at each Council with the following feedback provided.

Policy Development Panel – SHDC

Comment	Response
No suggestions for amendment of the Strategy were made	N/A

Corporate and Community Scrutiny Committee – BBC

Comment	Response
Request for a change of terminology regarding “preferred providers” to provide clarity that the Council aren’t giving any suppliers preferential treatment and that these due diligence checks are undertaken following a fair and transparent procurement process.	Agreed and have made an amendment so that it now reads “ Following a procurement process, we shall carry out due diligence checks (financial, insurances, and H&S (where relevant)) on the supplier that we intend to award the contract to. ”
Request for removal of reference to Social Value Portal, as other suppliers are in the market so should be testing the market to achieve value for money.	Agreed and noted that we are testing the market widely. Made amendment so that it now reads “Reviewing the possibility of using a social value IT system , which measures social value in financial and non-financial terms against national Themes, Outcomes and Measures.

Overview Committee – ELDC

Comment	Response
No suggestions for amendment of the Strategy were made	N/A

- 1.8** At its meeting on 25 October 2023 the Cabinet considered the draft Procurement Strategy that incorporated the feedback from the Scrutiny Committees. The Cabinet subsequently resolved to recommend the Strategy to Council for adoption.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The proposed Procurement Strategy is also being proposed at the other Councils within SELCP which ensures an aligned approach across all Councils. It also has an emphasis on Working with Partners which includes looking at joint procurement / joint contracts between the three Councils, which has the potential for financial efficiencies through economies of scale.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

The opportunity to work more collaboratively across the Partnership and realise increased opportunities to achieve best value in its procurement activity.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Future Prosperity, Regeneration, and Inclusive Growth

Delivering high quality services and maximising use of technology to residents

STAFFING

None

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

DATA PROTECTION

No direct data protection issues associated with this report.

FINANCIAL

No direct financial implications with this report. The principles of the strategy will have positive financial implications with regards to seeking financial efficiencies.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Portfolio Holder for Finance

Corporate & Community Scrutiny

Audit & Governance

REPUTATION

It is best practice for Councils to have an adopted Procurement Strategy. It is important that the Council adopts a new and up-to-date Procurement Strategy, to mitigate against the potential for adverse reputational impact.

CONTRACTS

No direct contractual implications with this report. The principles of the strategy will have positive implications with regards to more effective contract management.

CRIME AND DISORDER

None

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

None

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

None

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This Procurement Strategy includes the provision of strategies relating to Sustainable Procurement and the support of local businesses.

ACRONYMS

PSPSL – Public Sector Partnership Services Limited

SELCP – South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Procurement Strategy

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

None

REPORT APPROVAL

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