
**Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 –
Final documents and consultation**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the final revised Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22.
- 1.2 This report outlines the requirement for the annual updates and the key changes that have been made to both the Procurement Strategy and the Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- 1.3 The first drafts of both documents were approved by the Procurement Board to go to consultation with key stakeholders and the public via a web-based survey. The consultation closed on 20th November.
- 1.4 This report recommends that Policy and Resources Committee note the key changes to the documents and the outcome of the consultation.

The Strategy has been updated as follows:

- The Strategy Rationale/Context has been updated to reflect the current context for this strategy;
- The Strategic Aims, Key Priorities and Action Plan section has been streamlined and updated at Section 5.1 to state *“to support delivery of these outcomes the procurement team will continue to facilitate participation from local contractors in the procurement process to increase opportunity for local spend where possible”*;

and within Section 5.2 which states ...For all of our procurement activity we aim to build upon the achievements and benefits derived from the Council's previous corporate procurement strategies, with a view to... we have included the following *“to enhance contract management throughout the Council to increase efficiency and deliver better value for money”*.

- The Procurement Strategy by Category section has been updated with current plans; and
- The Financial Analysis section has been updated with 2019/20 figures.

The Policy has been updated as follows:

- Section 1.2 has been amended to include *“The Policy also supports the delivery of the Council's Decarbonisation Plan”*.

- Section 5.1 Priorities – Item 2: Objectives, Strategy & Communications
Removed wording “*and EU Regulations*” due to the transition period ending on 31st December 2020.

1.5 The final versions of the documents will be published on the Council’s website in April 2021.

**Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 –
Final documents and consultation**

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for the revised final Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Policy and Resources Committee note the key changes as detailed at Section 4.4 below to the Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Section 4.6 to the Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 and the outcome of the consultation.
- 3.2 That Policy and Resources Committee agree the revised final Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 to be published on the Council's website in April 2021.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory requirement to update and publish both its Procurement Strategy and its Sustainable Procurement Policy on an annual basis following the key changes introduced by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016.
- 4.2 The Council also has a requirement to consult with key stakeholder groups for both of these documents. This gives the Council the opportunity to raise awareness, attain buy-in, inform the contents of the documents and further develop engagement with key stakeholder groups.

4.3 Procurement Strategy

The Argyll and Bute Council Procurement Strategy 2021/22 will set out a framework which is designed to enable the Council to continue on its journey of change and innovation through:

- Build capacity and skills within the Council to continue to improve procurement, commissioning and contract management activity;
- Promoting the benefits of early procurement engagement and innovation;
- Making sure we comply with our statutory procurement duties;
- Increasing/...

- Increasing the level of collaboration both internally, between service areas, and externally with other partner organisations;
- Making sure we continue to adopt a partnership approach between internal and external partners;
- Encouraging more innovative use of community benefits requirements and ensuring that community benefit outcomes have been achieved that deliver for our local communities;
- Engaging proactively with key suppliers through contract and supplier relationship demand management to ensure that we extract maximum value and innovation from our supply base;
- To enhance contract management throughout the Council to increase efficiency and deliver better value for money;
- Focusing our procurement activity on delivering best value improvements for the people and communities in Argyll and Bute;
- Working cooperatively in everything we do to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and the third sector organisations. Continue to improve access to public sector contracts, particularly for local SMEs, Supported Businesses, Social Enterprises, Co-operatives and Third Sector;
- Facilitating participation from local contractors in the procurement process to increase opportunity for local spend where possible;
- Ensuring procurement activity contributes towards the Council's general Equality Duty towards all stakeholders in Argyll and Bute and beyond;
- Continuing to promote sustainability, fair work practices and the importance of equality and equal treatment through procurement;
- Setting out clear and achievable strategic objectives which support delivery of the Council's wider goals and objectives; and
- Making sure we continue to investigate and develop purchase to pay systems to improve our procurement methods.

4.4 **Summary of key changes to the Procurement Strategy 2020/21**

The Argyll and Bute Council Procurement Strategy 2021/22 has been updated from the previous version in the following areas, after internal and external research was undertaken and as a result of feedback received during the consultation period:

- The Strategy Rationale/Context has been updated to reflect the current context for this strategy;
- Section 4.3 has been amended to advise that *"This Strategy also supports the delivery of the Council's Decarbonisation Plan"*.
- The Strategic Aims, Key Priorities and Action Plan section has been streamlined and updated at Section 5.1 to state *"to support delivery of these outcomes the procurement team will continue to facilitate participation from local contractors in the procurement process to increase opportunity for local spend where possible"*

and/...

and within Section 5.2 which states For all of our procurement activity we aim to build upon the achievements and benefits derived from the Council's previous corporate procurement strategies, with a view to – we have included the following *“to enhance contract management throughout the Council to increase efficiency and deliver better value for money”*.

- The Procurement Strategy by Category section has been updated with current plans; and
- The Financial Analysis section has been updated with 2019/20 figures.

4.5 Sustainable Procurement Policy

The Argyll and Bute Council Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 builds on existing sustainability practice. The policy covers the three strands of sustainability: environmental, social and economic and aims to meet the substantial challenges of balancing the complexities of sustainable procurement within today's economic climate and continued drive for best value.

4.6 Summary of key changes to the Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22

The Argyll and Bute Council Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 has only had minor spend data updates from the previous version. After internal and external research and public consultation was undertaken, the following was amended:

- Section 1.2 has been amended to include *“The Policy will support the delivery of the Council's Decarbonisation Plan”*.
- Section 5.1 Priorities – Item 2: Objectives, Strategy & Communications
Removed wording *“and EU Regulations”* due to the transition period ending on 31st December 2020.

4.7 The revised draft Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22 are attached as Appendix 1.

4.8 The Stakeholder Consultation report details the outcome of the consultation. This is attached at Appendix 2 and will be published on the Council's website, in order to provide feedback to the consultees.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy have been revised in line with the Council's statutory requirement to do so on an annual basis following the key changes introduced by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

6.0/...

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy	The Procurement Strategy and the Sustainable Procurement Policy are existing policies to which no major amendments have been made.
6.2 Financial	None at present
6.3 Legal	This paper ensures the Council meets the statutory requirement to update and publish both its Procurement Strategy and its Sustainable Procurement Policy on an annual basis.
6.4 HR	None at present
6.5 Equalities & Socio-Economic Impact	None at present
6.6 Risk	None at present
6.7 Customer Service	None at present

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Appendices

Appendix 1:

Draft Procurement Strategy 2021/22 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2021/22

Appendix 2:

Stakeholder Consultation Report 2020