



Argyll and Bute Council

Draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25
&
Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25

Stakeholder Consultation Report

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Argyll and Bute Council's Procurement, Commercial and Contract Management Team (PCCMT) would like to begin this report by thanking all stakeholders who took the time to respond to our consultation in relation to the Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and the Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25. It is important for us to ensure that our key documents and the priorities they contain reflect the concerns of our key stakeholder groups, both internal and external.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Procurement Strategy

The Argyll and Bute Council Procurement Strategy 2022/25 sets 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 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 co-operatively 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;

- 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.

2.2 Sustainable Procurement Policy

The Argyll and Bute Council Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25 sets out the direction for the Council and 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 The Council also has a requirement to consult with key stakeholder groups for both of these documents. The aims of the consultation were:

- To increase awareness of the Council's Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy and engage meaningfully with key stakeholder groups;
- To make sure the links between the strategy and policy and other relevant strategies and plans are clear; and
- To enable a diverse range of stakeholder groups to take part and thereby influence the strategy and policy.

2.5 The consultation was completed in November 2021, via a web-based survey on the Council's website. The consultation was publicised via emails to key internal and external stakeholders, as well as being available to the general public through the "Keep me in the Loop" service. Appendix 1 details the consultation questions asked and Appendix 2 details the responses received.

3.0 CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

- 3.1** 47 responses were received, 64% of which were from the general public, and 23% from Argyll and Bute Council employees as the two largest response groups. This was a reduction from the 92 responses received for the similar consultation undertaken in 2020. Some valuable free format comments were provided, which are listed in Appendix 2 along with the Council's response to each. As a result of the consultation, we have amended the policy documents as noted in Item 3.4.
- 3.2** The majority of responses to the open-ended questions within the consultation provided feedback that included queries in relation to areas already covered in the documents or in more operational documents, as well as some feedback on areas out with the scope of the current consultation and Strategy document. Procurement comments on these responses have been provided, and the team will consider the application of improvements where relevant.
- 3.3** Overall, the responses to the consultation have been positive about the content of the new Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy.
- 3.4** Following the consultation process, the Strategy has been updated as follows:

- Section 6 - The Procurement Strategy by Category section

Corporate & Education / Short/Medium Term Strategy (Page 26)

Catering Contracts: continue to assess the suitability of Scotland Excel frameworks in order to ensure best value is achieved, along with other priority aims outlined in this guidance such as:

- Work proactively to identify and support local food and drink suppliers to access the public sector market in Argyll and Bute.
- Explore opportunities to introduce dynamic procurement opportunities for food and drink where appropriate.

Corporate & Education / Longer Term Strategy (Page 27)

Catering and Cleaning: Provide procurement support for Catering and Cleaning development projects. Ensure all procurement practices support the requirements laid out in the current Programme for Government, including forthcoming requirements expected as part of the Good Food Nation bill, the Community Wealth-building bill and the extension of universal free school meals. Explore opportunities for increasing the provision of organic or agro ecologically sourced food and drink across all food and drink contracts.

The Policy has been updated as follows:

- Section 5.1 Priorities – 3(e) Process (Page 53)

To provide procurement support to any strategic decisions taken by the Council in relation to the usage of Single Use Plastic products and their recyclability.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Although limited stakeholder responses were received, these included well-considered comments which we have found very valuable. The strategy has been streamlined in response to the comments and we have ensured that all matters highlighted by stakeholders have been included.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Please indicate which key stakeholder group(s) you belong to:

- Argyll and Bute Council Employees
- Argyll and Bute Councillors
- Local MSPs and MP
- Suppliers to Argyll and Bute Council
- Community Planning Partners
- Community Councils
- Other interested parties (please state)
- General public

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2022/25

The key changes to the document this year is the streamlining of the key priorities and action plan, two new sections have been included - 7 Priorities, developed by the Scottish Government Procurement Directorate; and Strategic Objectives and Action Plan. The Procurement Strategy by Category has also been updated to reflect new plans within the categories and the financial analysis has been updated with current data. Only minor amendments have been made to the remaining sections of the document.

GENERAL:

2. How informative or otherwise did you find the Strategy?

- Very informative
- Informative
- Neutral
- Uninformative
- Very uninformative

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to the Strategy?

- a. The strategy was easy to read
- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

- b. The format made it easy to follow
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

- c. The strategy is comprehensive
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

- d. The key priorities are clear
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

- 4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of how the Procurement Strategy should address them.

KEY PRIORITIES:

Twelve key priorities for regulated procurements have been identified in the Strategy, in line with Section 15(5) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

5. Do you consider the activities relating to these key priorities to be appropriate for the Council?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

6. Would you propose an additional or alternative key priority or activity in relation to regulated procurements?

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY 2022/25

Only minor amendments have been made to this document.

GENERAL:

7. How informative or otherwise did you find the Sustainable Procurement Policy?

- Very informative
- Informative
- Neutral
- Uninformative
- Very uninformative

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to the Policy?

a. The policy was easy to read

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

b. The format made it easy to follow

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

c. The policy is comprehensive

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

d. The priorities are clear

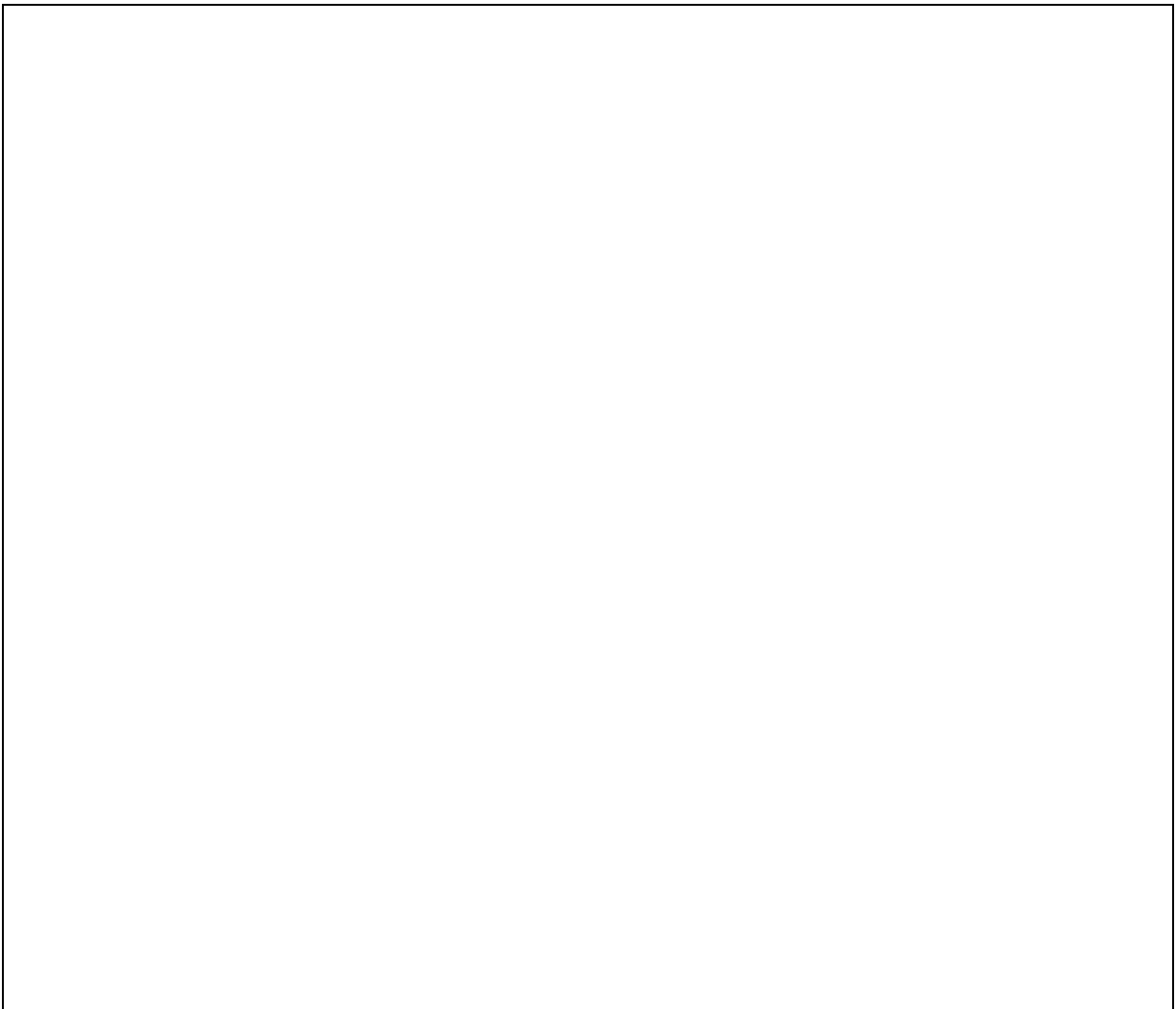
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

PRIORITIES:

9. Within the 5 priority areas identified within the Sustainable Procurement Policy (People; Objectives, Strategy & Communications; Process; Engaging Stakeholders; and Monitoring & Reporting) we have identified various specific priorities, do you consider these to be the right priorities for Sustainable Procurement within the Council?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

10. Are there any additional priorities we should include in relation to Sustainable Procurement?



COMMENTS

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25?

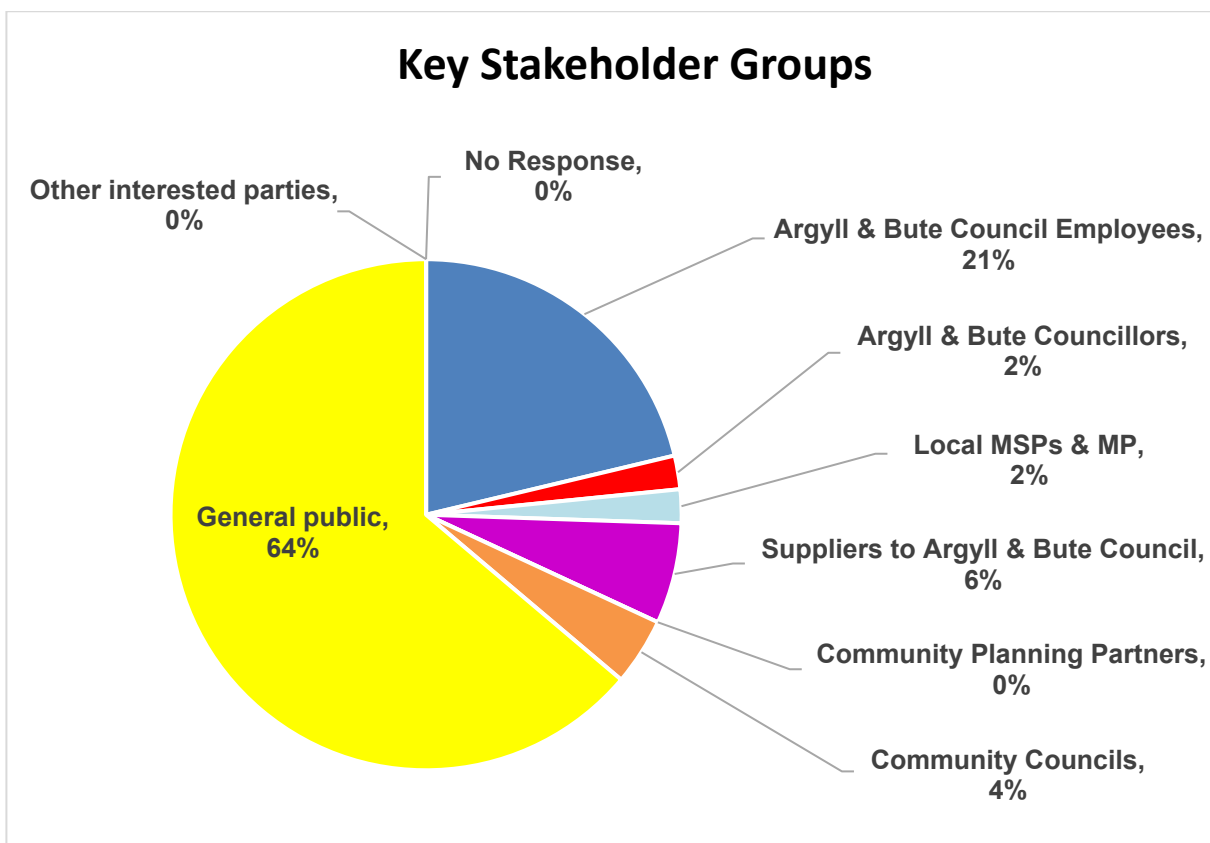


SURVEY RESPONSES

47 responses were received to the consultation survey. Last year's consultation received 92 responses to the survey.

1. Please indicate which key stakeholder group(s) you belong to:

Stakeholder Groups	2021 Respondents (%)	2020 Respondents (%)
Argyll & Bute Council Employees	21	25
Argyll & Bute Councillors	2	0
Local MSPs and MP	2	0
Suppliers to Argyll & Bute Council	6	7
Community Planning Partners	0	0
Community Councils	4	7
General public	64	58
Other interested parties	0	3
No response to question	0	1

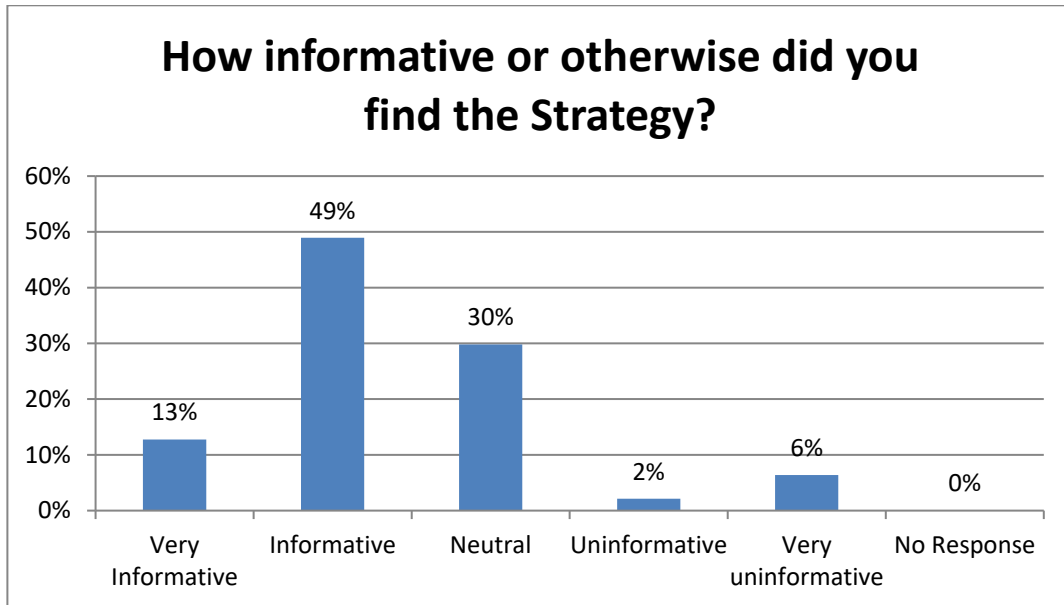


PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2022/25

GENERAL:

2. How informative or otherwise did you find the Strategy?

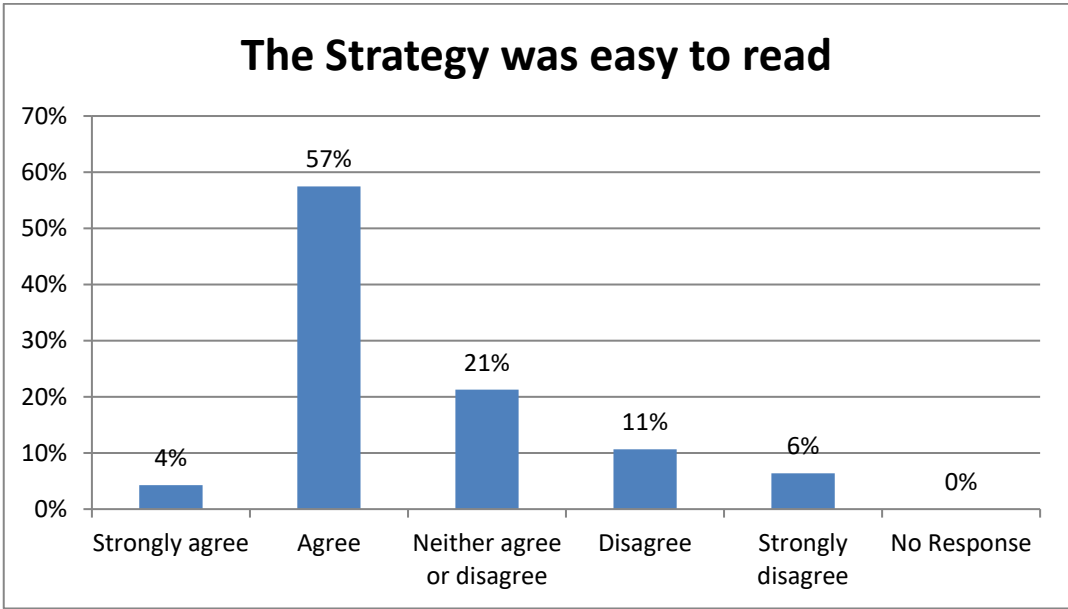
62% of respondents found the Procurement Strategy to be either informative or very informative, with only 8% of respondents stating that it was uninformative or very uninformative.



3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to the Strategy?

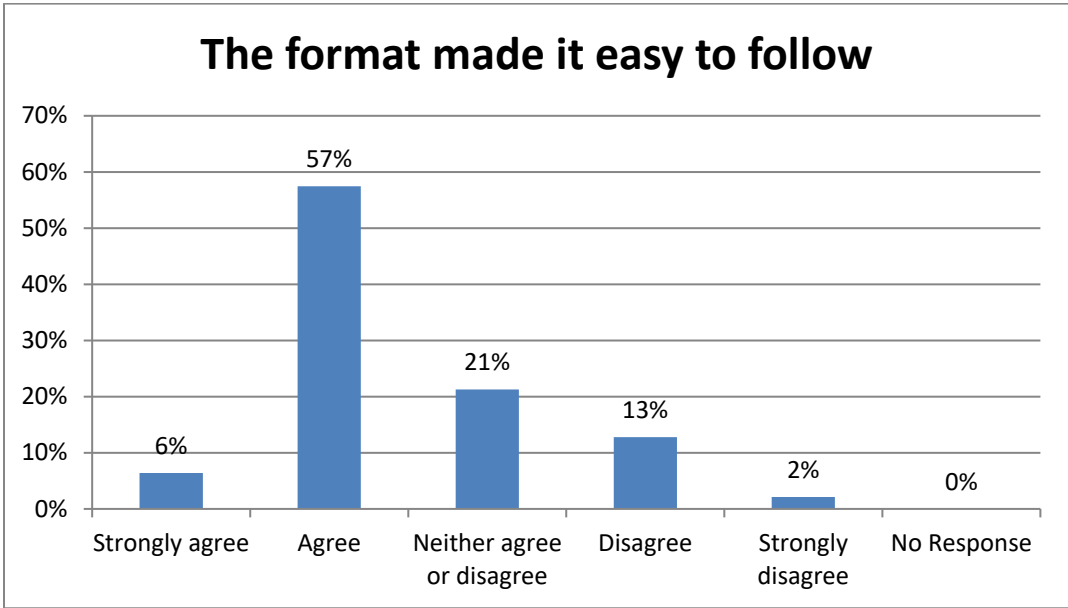
a. The strategy was easy to read

61% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the strategy was easy to read; while 17% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



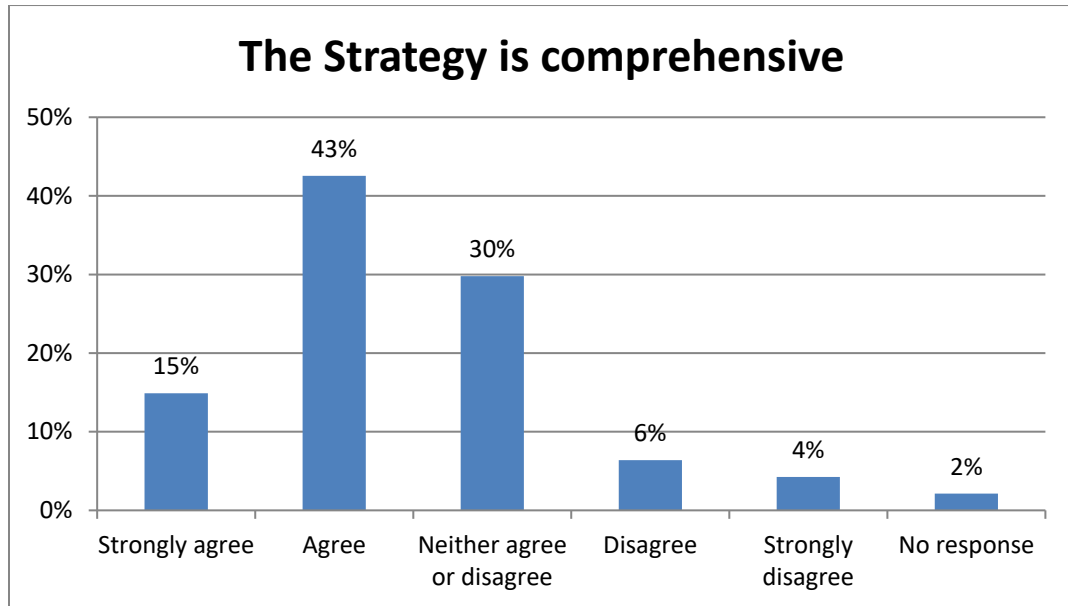
b. The format made it easy to follow

63% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the format of the strategy made it easy to follow; while 15% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.



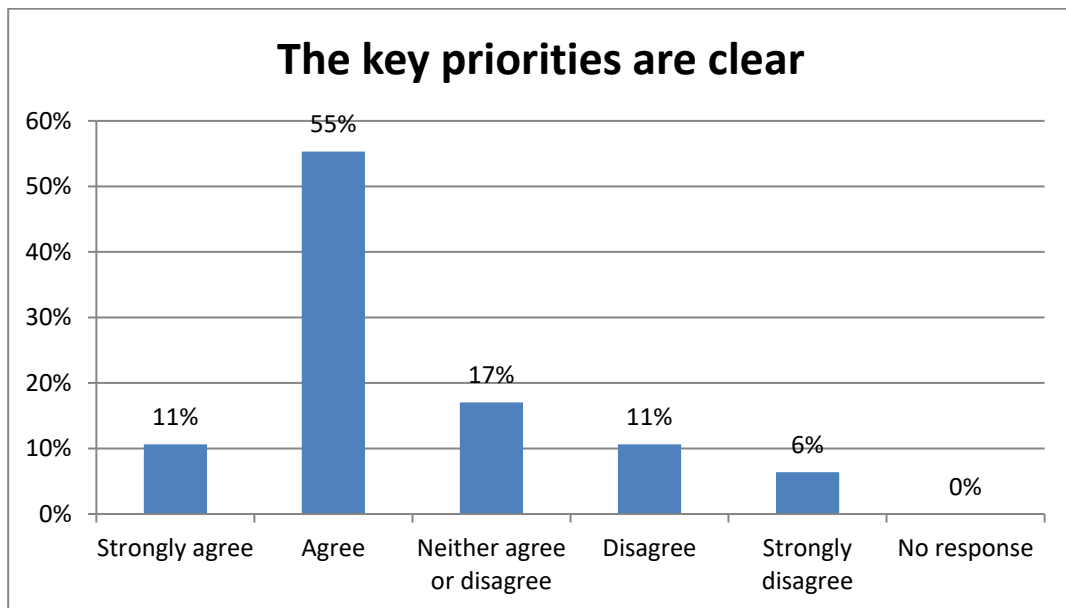
c. The strategy is comprehensive

58% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Procurement Strategy is comprehensive; while 10% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.



d. The key priorities are clear

66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the key priorities within the Strategy are clear; while 17% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of how the Procurement Strategy should address them.

Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
<p>Re Point 5.2 - Focusing our procurement activity on delivering best value improvements for the people and communities in Argyll and Bute.</p> <p>Please could this include making sure that quality of works done is checked and assessed, and if not of satisfactory standard then it is in contracts to be re-done at supplier's cost not the Council's cost. If quality of work is in question because of complaints made to the Council then is there a system for having a trigger rate of complaints to mean that the supplier is not good enough to remain as one, rather than just keep using them because they are cheapest. Does cheapest always mean cheapest in the long run?</p>	<p>Once a contract has been awarded to a contractor/supplier the council officer responsible for that contract's role is to ensure they are getting what is detailed in the contract namely a quality service from the contractor. To ensure there is consistency the Council has launched a contract management framework which will provide training advice and assistance to officers to ensure they manage the contracts on our behalf to deliver best value.</p>
<p>Where is the focus on repair and re-use? What can be done to prolong the life of current equipment FIRST before embarking on a procurement route? People should be trained as "lifecycle extenders" <not a great phrase, am sure there is a better one!> rather than focused purely on procurement.</p>	<p>Make or buy is the first stage of the procurement process which means can we provide services in house without spending additional monies or can we reuse goods and supplies instead of buying new. Further detail on make or buy can be found in the Councils' Procurement Manual which is located on the Council's website.</p>
<p>The general public seem to be last in a line of priorities! Surely the aim of the Council is to provide a service for the 'general public' Without this as the first emphasis all decisions will be made with a slanted view. It seems as though the policy is required by law and as such is produced with that in mind and the personal touch has gone.</p>	<p>The Procurement Strategy's vision is to be recognised by all Argyll and Bute stakeholders as a Procurement Team that works collaboratively, both internally as an embedded function of all Council services strategically used to support the economic, social and environmental needs of the residents of Argyll and Bute, and externally, to support Argyll and Bute communities; local small and medium enterprises (SMEs); third sector organisations; social enterprises; supported businesses and micro-enterprises; whilst delivering value for money for the people of Argyll and Bute.</p>

4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of how the Procurement Strategy should address them. /contd

Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
To support local employment either by using local suppliers as opposed to local bases of national organisations or by specifying that local people and/or subcontractors are employed.	While the Procurement Regulations do not allow public sector organisations to favour 'local' suppliers, the Council ensures that all contracts let with a potential local supply base are structured in a way that would support local SMEs to bid – i.e. via geographical lotting.
The document is 59 pages long and full of jargon.	The Council is required legally to publish its Procurement Strategy. A template is provided by the Scottish Government that we must follow and complete.
Too many small schools for younger people should be pulled to central hubs Lack of dementia care which is a disgrace	Noted
Have you really looked at the state of our towns and villages? They are crying out for investment. Are you prepared to demand the resources necessary from central/Scottish governments- if not you are merely adding sticking plasters to a severely open wound. Waken up and move this wonderful part of the world in the correct direction!	Noted
Climate change: evaluation of emissions	Sustainability - whether it be social, environmental or economical is embedded throughout all the stages of the procurement/tendering process.
This strategy should have been carried out years ago.	Noted
Although included it feels as though environmental impact of procurement is not as highly considered as it should be.	Sustainability - whether it be social, environmental or economical is embedded throughout all the stages of the procurement/tendering process.
Recycling of electrical goods back to the point of purchase ie new washing machine delivered -you give the old one back? More centres of WEE repair and recycle electrical goods rather than dump?	The Council has a number of contracts in place that enables it to recycle electrical goods.

4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of how the Procurement Strategy should address them.

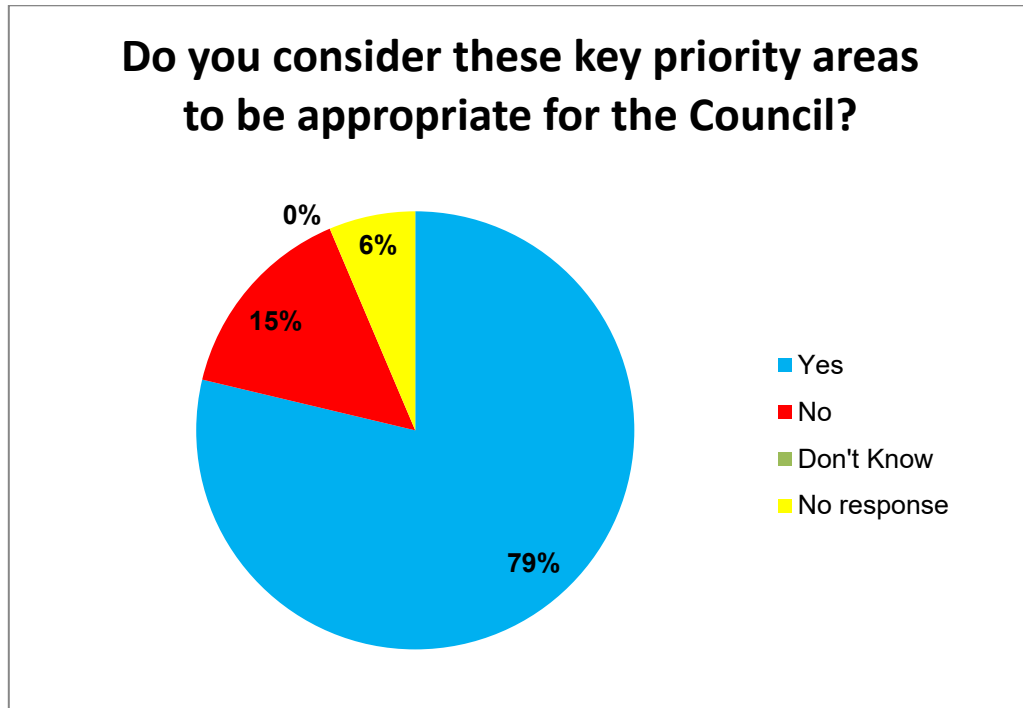
Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
<p>Really small businesses often need invoices paid sooner - 30 days is too long. You should be encouraging micro-businesses especially in rural and island communities.</p>	<p>The Council continues to support local small businesses in bidding for Council contracts. Part of the introduction of the contract management framework is to ensure council officers have a better understanding of the supply chain that they are using when getting work/services carried out for them. This will include ensuring local sub-contractors are getting paid on time by the principal contractor which they are required to do under their contract terms.</p>
<p>Timeframes - these are deadlines that must be meet</p>	<p>The timelines are detailed in the Strategy's action plan in Section 5, the Council's Annual Procurement Report will set out what the Council has achieved over the previous year in terms of the required actions.</p>
<p>There is an obvious elephant in the room with respect to this strategy document. This document, if agreed, would allow anyone who has received some internally provided (and internally assessed) training to control 'major' projects. What this document actually says is that council members (with no procurement qualifications) can give other council members a test then 'qualify' these members to control major (significant amounts of my money) projects. Unless this strategy document is amended to include requirements for nationally recognized procurement qualifications for our procurement staff then it should be thrown out of the room and the authors should be told to go away and think again. How can anyone possibly expect a project manager to conduct effective and efficient procurement activities without significant and up to date knowledge of the current purchasing and supply chain issues? This is the basis of the whole process, if you get this wrong then all of the rest will go wrong and we will end up in the normal public sector procurement area of 'late and over-budget' projects. I understand that adding nationally recognized training/qualification requirements for our procurement staff will incur costs, however I believe that these costs will be well worth the expenditure.</p>	<p>The Council's Procurement Team consists of qualified procurement and legal professionals. In addition, the Council has introduced its contract management framework which will require council officers who are responsible for managing contractors to have specific training to support their role.</p>

KEY PRIORITIES:

Twelve key priorities for regulated procurements have been identified in the Strategy, in line with Section 15(5) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

5. Do you consider the activities relating to these key priorities to be appropriate for the Council?

79% of respondents agreed that the key priority areas are appropriate for the Council; 15% of respondents disagreed.



6. Would you propose an additional or alternative key priority or activity in relation to regulated procurements?

Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
No	Noted
<p>What happens to spend under £50k or is it £100k, your policy states both, take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves. You show an unknown amount what is that? Surely everything should be accounted for no matter how small?</p>	<p>For goods/supplies and services £0-£999.00 - A Pricing agreement should be reached prior to purchase, can be done verbally but file note must be kept. A Quick Quote can be carried out if required which involves inviting a number of suppliers to bid for the contract. Between £1,000-£49,999, a quick quote process is carried out and anything over £50,000 is via a tender process. For works, an invitation to quote/tender process is carried out for works between £1,000-£2 million depending on the nature of the works.</p>
<p>Consolidation of services to Lochgilphead and shut local offices down to save over 1 million pounds a year.</p>	Noted
<p>I would like to see far greater environmental accountability and responsibility.</p>	<p>Sustainability forms part of every stage of the tendering/procurement process.</p>
No	Noted
<p>Carry out bulk buying of goods and services with neighbouring local authorities</p>	<p>The Council is part of Scotland Excel which is a national organisation that all local authorities are members of. This allows us to access their contracts/suppliers to get the best rates from them in particular for goods and supplies. In addition, the Council carries out joint procurements with our neighbouring local authorities for certain services/works contracts.</p>
<p>Environmental impact - it should not be included within the group of "social, economic and environmental" but have its own category throughout.</p>	<p>Sustainability forms part of every stage of the tendering/procurement process throughout all our categories of spend to ensure consistency, therefore, it would not be appropriate to have its own category.</p>

6. Would you propose an additional or alternative key priority or activity in relation to regulated procurements? / contd

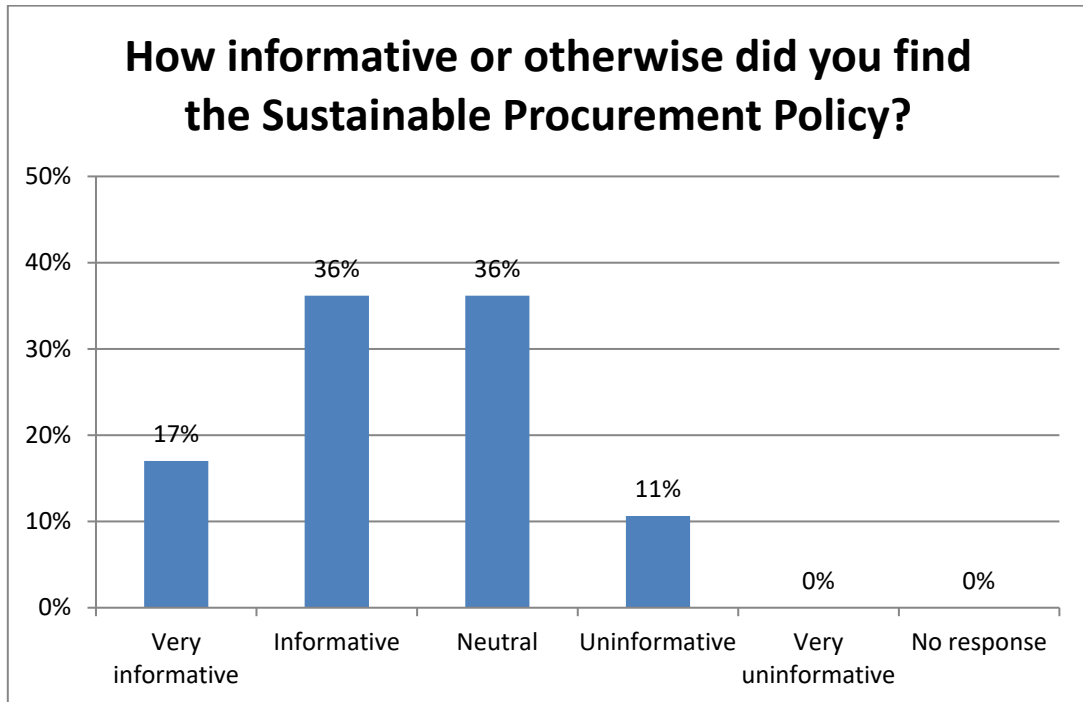
Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
<p>Not alternative or key but I would still try and refurbish Helensburgh Pier so public shipping may land such as PS Waverley or any other ship of that size, as it would bring people to the area, also people from the area to other nearby places supported by Argyll and Bute, as a tourist idea but could also be a good alternative communication route to outlying places.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>It would be good to see local suppliers being used.</p>	<p>Argyll and Bute's spend with our local suppliers was 34.3% of our total spend in financial year 2020/21 and, at the time of writing, the Year to Date spend with local suppliers for 2021/22 is 29.2% of our total spend.</p>
<p>Equality duty. Plenty of mention of "equality" in the document but not much on how procurement could be used to help or encourage - e.g. women owned businesses.</p>	<p>For all regulated procurements, at the initial strategy development stage consideration is given to how the procurement can contribute to the Council's compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty. This includes considering whether it is appropriate for the Service team to carry out an Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for the procurement. In addition, specifically in relation to unconscious bias, the Council's standard approach to tender evaluations should minimise these effects within our evaluation panels. For all procurements, the various stages of the evaluation process are carried out by more than one member of staff, with both scores and feedback being discussed at a moderation meeting with a member of the procurement team. Also, the questions included within tenders are as objective as possible, removing as much subjectivity from the process as we can whilst still ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets Service requirements.</p>

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY 2022/25

GENERAL:

7. How informative or otherwise did you find the Sustainable Procurement Policy?

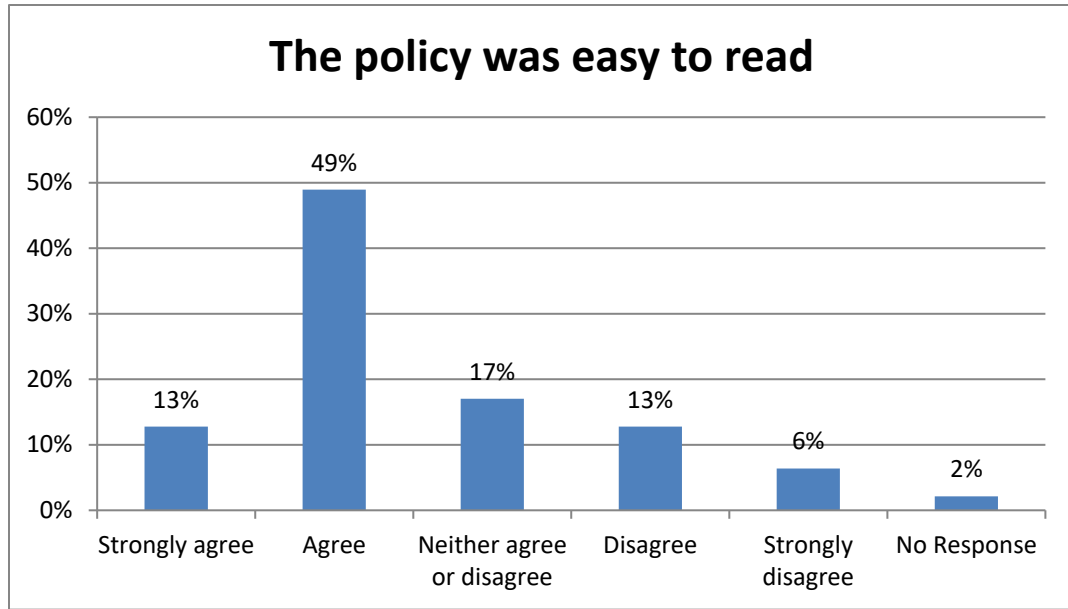
53% of respondents found the Sustainable Procurement Policy to be either informative or very informative; only 11% found it to be uninformative or very uninformative



8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to the Policy?

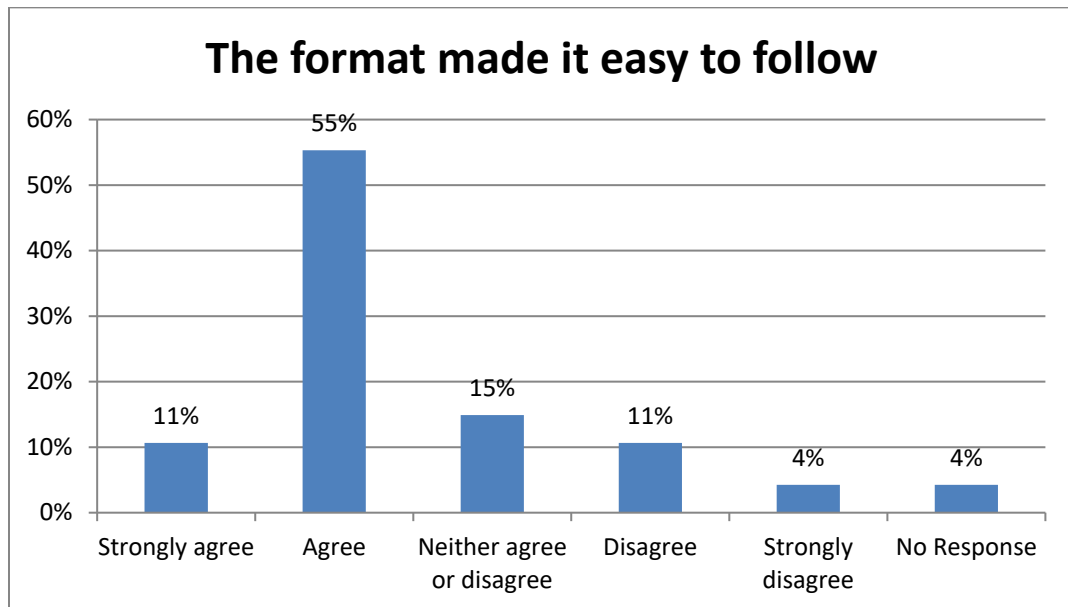
a. The policy was easy to read

62% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the Sustainable Procurement Policy was easy to read; while 19% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



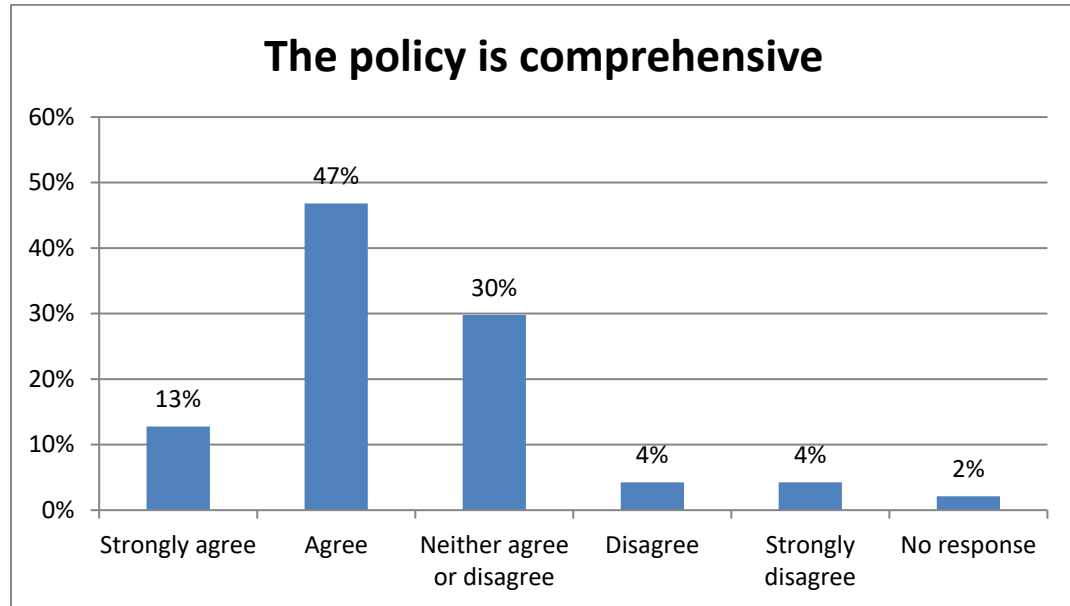
b. The format made it easy to follow

66% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the format of the Sustainable Procurement Policy made it easy to follow; while 15% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



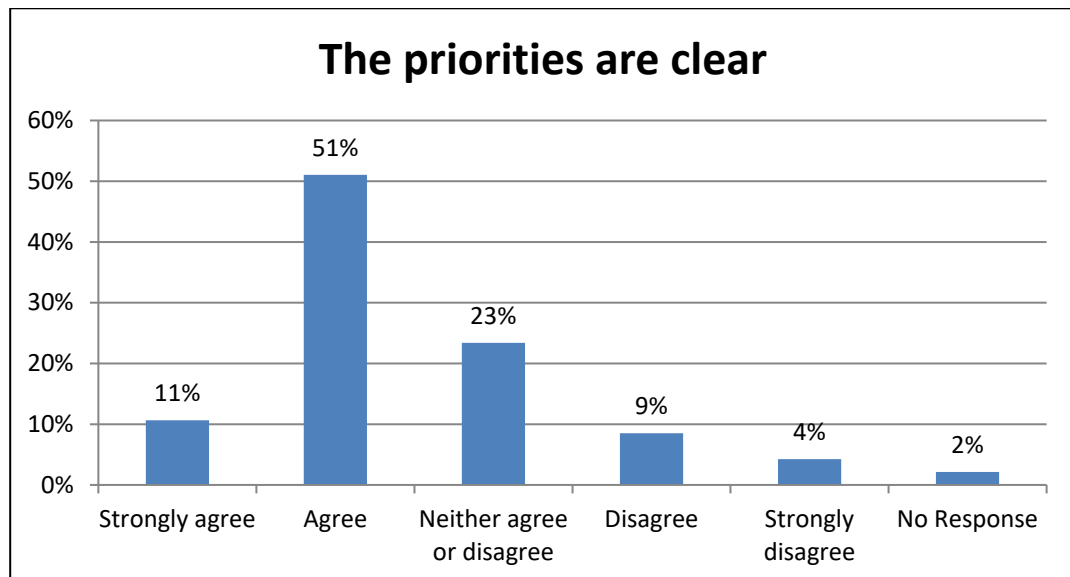
c. The policy is comprehensive

60% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the Sustainable Procurement Policy is comprehensive, while 8% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



d. The priorities are clear

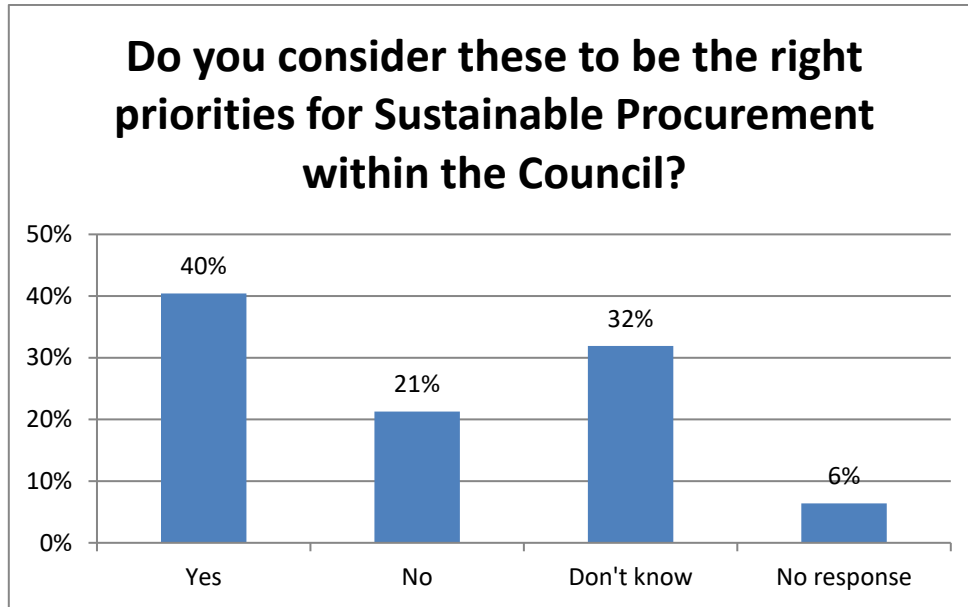
62% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the priorities included in the Sustainable Procurement Policy were clear, and 13% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



PRIORITIES:

9. Within the 5 priority areas identified within the Sustainable Procurement Policy (People; Objectives, Strategy & Communications; Process; Engaging Stakeholders; and Monitoring & Reporting) we have identified various specific priorities, do you consider these to be the right priorities for Sustainable Procurement within the Council?

40% of respondents indicated that they consider the current priorities to be the right priorities for the Council, 21% disagreed.



10. Are there any additional priorities we should include in relation to Sustainable Procurement?

Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
<p>No</p> <p>Best Value will be achieved by obtaining Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT), taking into account whole life costs and non-financial aspects of the purchase. Is locality given a positive weighting to take into account the environmental impacts of transporting people/materials into the area? If not, it should. I can't see any mention of "transport miles" being factored. There is no point in demanding a supplier abides by good environmental practices if they are being shipped in by road/rail over long distances in preference to a local "more expensive" supplier. That is not value for money.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>While the Procurement Regulations do not allow public sector organisations to favour 'local' suppliers, the Council ensures that all contracts let with a potential local supply base are structured in a way that would support local Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to bid – i.e. via geographical lotting. In addition, where freshness of products or urgent response times are of key importance to the Council these are included within the specifications of contracts to ensure they are met – this is something that local suppliers should be able to demonstrate well within their tender returns, resulting in a higher Quality score. At present, the Council is not aware of a standardised approach to calculating transport miles within tenders – once this type of approach is agreed across the public sector the Council would look to embed it within relevant tenders, whilst still considering the additional impact these types of calculations would likely have on SMEs bidding for Council contracts as this would then form part of their tender submissions.</p>
<p>No</p> <p>As stated previously, carry out bulk buying with neighbouring local authorities to take advantage of bulk buying discounts.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>The Council is part of Scotland Excel which is a national organisation that all local authorities are members of. This allows us to access their contracts/suppliers to get the best rates from them, in particular, for goods and supplies. In addition, the Council carries out joint procurements with our neighbouring local authorities for certain services/works contracts.</p>
<p>As above, our community and its success and well-being are nothing if the environment is declining.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

10. Are there any additional priorities we should include in relation to Sustainable Procurement? / contd

Consultation Feedback	Procurement Comment
Equality & Diversity. Quote - "ensure there is no intentional discrimination". What is being done about unconscious bias?	For all regulated procurements, at the initial strategy development stage consideration is given to how the procurement can contribute to the Council's compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty. This includes considering whether it is appropriate for the Service team to carry out an Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for the procurement. In addition, specifically in relation to unconscious bias, the Council's standard approach to tender evaluations should minimise these effects within our evaluation panels. For all procurements the various stages of the evaluation process are carried out by more than one member of staff, with both scores and feedback being discussed at a moderation meeting with a member of the procurement team. Also, the questions included within tenders are as objective as possible, removing as much subjectivity from the process as we can whilst still ensuring it is fit for purpose and meets Service requirements.
Perhaps a paragraph on training and education could be added.	Training and education is detailed in Section 5 of the Sustainable Policy. It states "a) We will use organisational development opportunities, and e-learning to share knowledge and ensure annual refresher training on the latest sustainable procurement principles for key procurement staff, to meet any knowledge gaps." The Scottish Government earlier in the year launched online sustainable procurement training, all of the procurement team have carried out the training and are implementing what they have learnt in their daily work.
Use professional procurement managers.	The Council's Procurement Team consist of qualified procurement and legal professionals. In addition, the Council has introduced its contract management framework which will require council officers who are responsible for managing contractors to have specific training to support their role.

COMMENTS

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25?

Further comments	Procurement Comment
No	Noted
Please see above.	Noted
As a teacher I remain appalled at the amount of plastics that can accompany foods. Why are we still buying, serving ice cream portions in polystyrene tubs? Why does a ploughman's lunch include 2 plastic wrapped cheese portions? We can do better than this.	Noted and comments shared with our Catering Service. However, further information on specific education settings is available by contacting the Catering Team direct at christine.boyle@argyll-bute.gov.uk.
I like the format as it stands.	Noted
See my comments above and take decisive action.	Noted
No	Noted
No	Noted
Another Scottish Government 'box ticking' exercise which is another waste of council taxpayers money.	The Council is legally obliged to publish our Procurement Strategy.
The KPI's are very limited - where are the KPI's for the strategic aims in section 5. The use of clear KPI's would make the strategy and policies easier to understand and measure over time.	The KPIs are included within Section 7 of the Strategy, in addition, the action points detailed in Section 5 are reported on in the Council's Annual Procurement Report, which we are legally obliged to produce which sets out what we have achieved in the previous year.

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25? / contd

Further comments	Procurement Comment
<p>It sounds good, I like the idea smaller companies may be encouraged to tender. I forget that Argyll and Bute is more than just Helensburgh, it may be better to use a local company where it would cost too much to transport from a larger company elsewhere.</p>	<p>While the Procurement Regulations do not allow public sector organisations to favour 'local' suppliers, the Council ensures that all contracts let with a potential local supply base are structured in a way that would support local SMEs to bid – i.e. via geographical lotting.</p>
<p>How am I able to inform you if I have yet to see the documents, where are they to be found?</p>	<p>The documents are available on the Council's website.</p>
<p>No covers everything.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>No. Thank you.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Appears to be a high level document, not sure if unqualified member of public (me) has a great deal to offer in the way of a comment of any significance, thanks for the opportunity to read.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>A lot of 'blah, blah' and buzzwords but can any of them be believed?</p>	<p>The Council is legally obliged to publish our Procurement Strategy and thereafter publish our Annual Procurement Report, which sets out what it has achieved in the previous year that meets our strategic aims and action points as detailed in the Strategy. This is to ensure the public are fully aware of what we have or have not achieved.</p>

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25? / contd

Further comments	Procurement Comment
<p>Again, perhaps a paragraph on training and education could be added.</p>	<p>Training and education is specified in our Strategy action plan at Section 5 , it states "Mandatory training for Council officers involved in the procurement process (project leads, specification writers) including highlighting the requirement for project/contract management, excellent communication skills, varying contracts, budget variances and social benefits that procurement must consider (for example, Equality and Fair Work First Practices). Ongoing training for procurement staff on changes to legislation and regulations." In addition, training and education is detailed in Section 5 of the Sustainable Policy. It states "a) We will use organisational development opportunities, and e-learning to share knowledge and ensure annual refresher training on the latest sustainable procurement principles for key procurement staff, to meet any knowledge gaps. The Scottish Government earlier in the year launched online sustainable procurement training, all of the procurement team have carried out the training and are implementing what they have learnt in their daily work.</p>
<p>You sent me this review notice a week ago. How do you expect me to realistically review a 60 page document of this importance in a week? If reviewing this document was my only job I could probably achieve it, but unfortunately, like most of your 'member of the public' reviewers, I have other work to do. I have not been given enough time to consider the full implications of the document detail, but in general, I would say that it strikes me as just a copy and paste and update of previous procurement strategy documents and we all know how well our public sector procurement activities have done in the past. This is a serious subject, get the procurement process right and your projects will go ahead as planned, get the procurement process wrong and you will spend the rest of your time answering complaints and fighting off regulators.</p>	<p>The documents have been available on the Council's website site from 1st November 2021, and the link shared with Community Councils, MSPs, MPs and our Community Planning Partners, in addition, the Council issues an email to suppliers. However, emails to individuals on the "Keep me in the Loop" service were only issued on 12th November 2021. We do apologise for the lateness of these in this instance.</p>