

Cherwell District Council

Executive

7 April 2014

<p>Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2014/15</p>
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Report of Interim Head of Finance and Procurement

This report is public

Purpose of report

To consider the Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2014/15.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider and approve the Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2014/15 (Appendix 1).

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Cherwell District Council adopted its first formal Procurement Action Plan in 2007/08 and has refreshed it annually to cover the period to March 2014.
- 2.2 The purpose of the procurement strategy is to communicate clearly to stakeholders, operational managers, procurement specialists and suppliers in the private and voluntary sectors, the council's vision for the procurement of goods, services and works so that each may play a meaningful role in improving the procurement practices and delivering budget reductions at the council.
- 2.3 The strategy sets out the framework for all our procurement activity. It confirms the objectives that we should be aiming to achieve, the policies to be considered and followed and the mechanisms by which we will put in place the council's vision.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 Whilst the vast majority of the Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 2013/14 remains highly relevant, the 2014/15 version incorporates the following updates:

- A commitment to work closely with the newly formed three way Transformation team. The Joint Procurement Team will be working closely with the Transformation Team to support joint working across councils facilitating positive change via process reengineering and continuous improvement.
- The removal of the internal customer satisfaction Key performance indicator. Informal feedback is still sought but a formal annual internal customer satisfaction is felt to be overly bureaucratic.
- A commitment to action all fourteen points of the Federation of Small Business' Small Business Friendly Procurement Charter.
- A commitment to proactively prepare for the impact of the UK procurement regulations expected in 2014 designed to modernise NB we have to assume they will modernise if that is what they say they will do the public procurement law. A senior member of the team is booked onto one of the first wave of training days run by Central Government and will be briefing the rest of the team. As the changes are finalised the team will ensure that they are reflected in the joint policies and procedures as well as standard documents used by the team.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan has a fundamental role in helping the Council reduce its services budget and protect front line services. Executive is therefore recommended to approve the 2014/15 iteration.

5.0 Consultation

Cllr Ken Atack – Lead Member for Financial Management
Joint Management Team

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The alternative is not to approve the Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan. This is not recommended as the Strategy and Action Plan have a fundamental role in helping the Council reduce its services budget and protect front line services

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no adverse financial effects on the Council by implementing the procurement strategy. The cashable savings target will assist in protecting Council services and managing funding reductions.

Comments checked by: Nicola Jackson, Corporate Finance Manager, 01295 221731, nicola.jackson@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 Legal work closely with procurement to ensure that our processes are compliant and not open to challenge. The monitoring officer also plays a key role as part of the Procurement Steering Group.

Comments checked by: Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance, 0300 0030107, kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: Yes

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

An accessible, value for money council

Lead Councillor

Ken Attack, Lead member for Financial Management.

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Joint Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan 14/15
Background Papers	
None	
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