

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Audit and Standards Committee
Date	-	18 May 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Directors
Subject	-	Procurement Strategy

Recommendation: it be **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet be requested to recommend to Council that the draft Procurement Strategy at Appendix A, as amended, be approved and adopted.

Assistant Director Resources – Robin Vennard

Introduction and Background

1. Members may be aware that the Council's Procurement Strategy has been in need of updating. During July 2019 the Council's procurement partner, East Sussex Procurement Hub (ESPH), held a workshop with Members to inform the development of a new strategy that would meet legal requirements and policy objectives. Members are asked to review the draft strategy and make changes as necessary. The draft strategy (as amended) at Appendix A will need to be referred to Cabinet and if supportive to recommend to full Council its adoption.
2. In 2018/19 the Council spent £6.2 million on goods, works and services, we clearly have a responsibility to make sure this spending represents best value for money. The importance of effective procurement has never been greater for local government. The demand for public services is increasing, while resources are drastically reducing. The pressure to find greater efficiencies and improve productivity is driving councils to look for different ways to deliver better outcomes for local people. The Council uses the services of the ESPH which is hosted by Wealden District Council. It is a three way partnership including Hastings Borough Council, although the Hub do undertake wider joint procurements across East Sussex and beyond where there is an economic/market advantage in procuring together.

The new strategy

3. The draft Procurement Strategy has been developed using Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England 2018 toolkit as its basis. The strategy explains how the Council will continue to develop and benefit from the professional expertise of the East Sussex Procurement Hub and the systems employed to make sure that the Council delivers value for money and "spends its money wisely".
4. The strategy explains what the Council is setting out to achieve through the procurement of goods and services including considerations such as the environment and socio-economic issues. It provides reassurance that the Council will continue to spend public money in a way which is fair,

accountable and gets the very best value. The Strategy sets out the key responsibilities for Members and Officers and has a number of key performance measures that can be reported on.

Current Major Contracts

5. To give Members an indication of the scale of contracts that are managed by the Council with the support of the ESPH, Appendix B details the major contracts the Council has including their value and renewal dates.

Conclusion

6. The draft procurement strategy gives officers and Members a sound basis for procurement decisions. It strengthens the governance around procurement and increases Members involvement. The Strategy can be updated annually for any changes (including legislative) and the impact it is having will be monitored through the key performance indicators and reported to Members on a regular basis.

Malcolm Johnston
Executive Director

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director

Risk Assessment Statement

Failure to adopt a robust and up to date procurement strategy could lead to financial, legal and reputational challenge and damage to the Council.