

Proposed Amended Sustainable Procurement Policy following comments made at P&R

Appendix 3: Sustainable Procurement Policy

The Councils recognise that they have a vital role in furthering sustainable development, through its procurement of buildings, goods, works and services.

Procurement decisions have a major socio-economic and environmental implication, both locally and globally, now and for future generations.

The Councils will therefore strive to:

People, Education and Awareness

- Educate, train and encourage internal purchasers to review their consumption of goods and services, reduce usage and adopt more environmentally friendly alternative products.
- Communicate the sustainable procurement policy to all staff, suppliers and stakeholders.

Policy, Strategy & Procurement Process

General

- Promote and embed best practice for sustainable procurement.
- Work in partnership with other councils to maximise sustainable procurement gains.

Environmental products

- Consider the costs and benefits of socially and environmentally preferable goods, suppliers and services.
- Wherever possible and practicable, specify a requirement in line with nationally or regionally agreed minimum specifications. For instance timber or wood derived products should either be recycled or from sustainable sources.
- Where such exact specification is not possible, offer a facility for suppliers to submit offers for environmentally friendly alternatives.

Environmental construction, biodiversity & recycling

- Set targets for carbon emission reductions through carbon management.
- Set targets where appropriate for sustainable construction, refurbishment and maintenance through national standards such as BREEAM1.
- Fulfil obligations under the Biodiversity duty (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) as part of Sustainable Development plans.

¹ BREEAM - An environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings

- Investigate opportunities for recycling, reduced usage, bulk delivery and reduced or recyclable packaging.

Socio-Economic

- Fully support the Councils' commitment to the Small Business Friendly Concordat and VCS (Voluntary and Community Sector) Compact.
- Ensure that where appropriate and allowable, Sustainability Criteria are part of the supplier evaluation process and are used in the award of contracts.

Engaging Suppliers

- Communicate the Councils' sustainability objectives to our suppliers, together with the Councils' carbon emission reduction requirements.
- Encourage and persuade suppliers to adopt socially and environmentally friendly processes which underpin their supply of goods and services as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Address barriers to the Councils doing business with Small Business & Voluntary sectors.
- Address barriers to the Councils doing business with local suppliers.

Measurements and Results

- Collaborate with other councils to meet the sustainability targets set regionally or nationally.
- Support achievement of the authorities' targets for Sustainability and carbon management improvement.