

Title:	Procurement Strategy
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Rosier - Procurement Advisor Cllr Carbin – Finance Portfolio Holder
Reporting Officer:	Ian Jamieson - Head of Finance Tracey Gay – Financial Accountant
Key Decision:	No

1 Purpose

This report seeks Cabinet agreement of the Procurement Strategy.

2 Background

In response to best practice, the National Procurement Strategy and the Gershon efficiency review a Procurement Strategy for West Wiltshire has been developed.

The strategy is based on guidance from the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government and IDeA Procurement Essentials.

It has been subjected to an IDeA 'Procurement Challenge' satisfying the national procurement requirement for districts to have carried out a health check by 2006. Benchmarking has also been carried out against 'best practice' district councils.

The strategy has been reviewed by the Procurement Group and Corporate Management team

3 Key Issues

Procurement at West Wiltshire is approached in an innovative manner in order to achieve the most appropriate purchasing solutions. All Procurement approaches are considered covering in-house, outsourcing, traditional, partnering and PFI. All with the overall aim of achieving Value for Money for the Council.

The Strategy sets out best practice, sound principles and provides a procurement framework for all staff, members, partners and suppliers to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

The Strategy aims to provide a clear, practical, relevant and useful framework for procurement at all levels throughout the Council. This is linked to the Council's priorities and underlying principles integrating these within established practices to ensure value for money is achieved.

The Strategy does not provide detailed guidance regarding procurement, but will assess current practices and action plan areas for future development. The document is a statement of intention and conveys the action to be taken over the next three years.

It is intended to update the strategy annually, to reflect organisational changes, developments in procurement practice and links with other strategies.

Implementation will be co-ordinated by the Procurement Group working closely with the Corporate Management Team and Members.

The quality control mechanisms will be monitored against pre-determined targets detailed under Performance.

4 The Way Forward

- The Procurement Group will develop and publish detailed guidance to support the Procurement Strategy.
- The Council will continue to work with the Regional Centre of Excellence on a joint approach to procurement in particular on Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing.
- The Council will explore options to deliver procurement savings in accordance with the 'Gershon agenda'
- Specific guidance will be developed for the management of future refuse and grounds maintenance contracts.
- A corporate procurement plan will be developed for the Depot

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications: There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Rights Implications: The Human Rights implications of the actions recommended in this report have been considered and are acceptable and the checklist has been addressed.

5 Recommendation

Cabinet agrees the Procurement Strategy

 Plain English guidance given

5 September 2005

File ref. N:\Cabinet Reports\2005-2006\28 September\Procurement

Background papers:

Procurement Strategy

IDeA Procurement Challenge

National Procurement Strategy for Local Government

IDeA Procurement Essentials