

SCRUTINY COMMISSION –
11th OCTOBER 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND THE
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

DRAFT CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY TO 2009

Purpose of Report

1. This report presents the draft Corporate Procurement Strategy for consideration.
2. This draft Strategy sets out the purchasing direction for the Authority and how this supports the Authority's priority of keeping council tax rises as low as possible over the next few years, as well as the commitment to Leicestershire Together to improve the quality and co-ordination of public services in the County.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

3. The first Corporate Procurement Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in November 2003. The current draft Strategy has been updated to reflect the Medium Term Corporate Strategy (MTCS) for the County Council, which covers the Authority's priorities for the four-year period to May 2009.

Background

4. The draft Corporate Procurement Strategy provides a common framework within all the Authority's procurement activity is managed. The document is structured using the 4 main themes of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government to help demonstrate how the Authority is meeting government expectations (including Comprehensive Performance Assessment requirements) and well as its own priorities in the MTCS.

5. The overall procurement vision is: *'To achieve the highest standards of service delivery for Leicestershire people and maximise the scope for efficiency savings through excellent procurement practice.'* The overall objectives, which underpin this vision are:
- Managing procurement strategically and using a highly skilled team of procurement professionals;
 - Securing and sustaining successful partnerships with both commercial bodies and public sector organisations;
 - Making best use of information and communications technology to reduce the cost of the procurement process and to improve the quality and timeliness of procurement information;
 - Building a diverse, innovative and competitive supply base, which delivers value for money and improved service quality.
6. The contents of the draft Strategy link closely with the corporate change agenda and particularly the Organisational Efficiency programme. The document also aligns with the Authority's Environmental Strategy, Equalities Policy and Competition Policy.

Consultation

7. Apart from the Scrutiny Commission, targeted consultation is being undertaken with those parties who have a specific interest in the Authority's procurement approach, namely Leicestershire Together, trades union representatives and key suppliers.

Resource Implications

8. Delivery of the Strategy's future plans and its resource requirements will be addressed through the corporate Change Programme. The Strategy is expected to make a major contribution to the Authority's efficiency savings targets by delivering cumulative cashable savings of £9.7m by 2009/10 through better procurement.

Timetable

9. The proposed timetable for adoption of the Strategy is:
- September to November - consultation (including Scrutiny)
Cabinet: 19th December 2006 – adoption of final Strategy

Conclusion

10. The Scrutiny Commission is requested to consider the attached draft Strategy and make suggestions for changes to be considered by Cabinet. These views will be considered alongside those comments submitted from other stakeholders.

Equal Opportunities Implications

11. The Strategy reflects the Authority's statutory duties to promote equality and eliminate discrimination in all relevant areas of its work and to ensure that the Authority treats suppliers and potential suppliers in a fair and equitable way.

Circulation Under Sensitive Issues Procedures

None

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Appendix

Draft Corporate Procurement Strategy to 2009