



Leicestershire  
County Council



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## **SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 17 DECEMBER 2008**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING**

### **JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

#### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a further progress update on the Environmental Procurement Action Plan (see Appendix).

#### **Background**

2. The Scrutiny Review Panel established to consider the County Council's environment policies and programmes developed an Action Plan on 'Procurement and the Environment' after its meeting of 14 September 2007. This was reported to Scrutiny Commission on 19 December 2007, was approved by Cabinet in 15 January 2008 and progress subsequently reported to Scrutiny Commission in June 2008. The Plan is consistent with the Council's Environment Strategy,.

#### **Progress to date**

3. Good progress continues to be made in delivering the Environmental Purchasing Action Plan. This includes delivery of the commitment to introduce an environmental purchasing policy and guidance by the end of September 2008.

#### **Resource Implications**

4. Resource implications of the Environmental Purchasing Policy will be limited to what is considered reasonable additional cost by Tender Evaluation Panels when assessing the Most Economically Advantageous Tenders.

#### **Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedures**

None

#### **Equal Opportunities Implications**

None specifically

## **Environmental Impact**

Achievement of each of the targets in the Environmental Action Purchasing Plan will mean a positive contribution to the Authority's long term goal of significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

## **Officer to Contact**

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## **Background Papers**

UK Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005;

Sustainable Procurement Task Force National Action Plan: 'Procuring the Future', June 2006;

Leicestershire County Council Environment Strategy, 2004;

Corporate Procurement Strategy to 2009

Sustainable Community Strategy for Leicestershire, 2008-13

Progress Report to Scrutiny Commission: 'Procurement and the Environment' 18 June 2008

## Environmental Purchasing Action Plan – Progress December 2009

| ACTION  | TARGET DATE                         | STATUS      | COMMENT   |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Achieve the planned environmental review of the Council's activities, products and services to identify significant risks and impacts.                  | March 2008                          | Achieved    | Environmental Risk Assessment completed for each of Council's purchasing spend categories/sub-categories. Available on CIS.   |
| Deliver the planned Environmental Purchasing Policy and Guidance to give priority to significant risks identified and guide staff purchasing decisions. | March 2008 (draft for consultation) | Achieved    | Policy and Guidance adopted by Cabinet on 1 October 2008 following extensive consultation internally and with suppliers. Available as part of the Purchasing Guide on CIS.  |
| Provide training and promotion initially to key procurement staff and then all procurement staff of the Environmental Purchasing Policy and Guidance.   | September 2008                      | In progress | Pilot training undertaken in October 2008 with roll-out to commence in January 2009. Training being initially targeted at Category Managers, Procuring Officers and Contract Managers on a category by category basis   |
| Develop an environmental audit tool to identify contracts with significant environmental risks.   | September 2008                      | Achieved    | The environmental review matrix doubles as an audit tool for assessing contracts and is included in the Environmental Purchasing Guidance.  |
| Investigate and select methods to assess whole life costs for contracts with significant risks.   | March 2009                          | In progress | Investigation underway on current use of whole life costs within the Council, e.g. construction contracts. A collaborative bid to the East Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership for funds to progress a Sustainable Procurement project (on behalf of all councils in the region) – which included the development of a whole life costing approach - was unsuccessful. |
| Develop performance indicators to monitor our environmental procurement   | March 2009                          | In progress | The National Flexible Framework is being used to assess the Council's sustainable procurement progress. In addition, officers are investigating the potential to develop a meaningful KPI for environmental procurement activity.   |
| Undertake the planned work with our key suppliers to help them improve their environmental performance  | September 2009                      | In progress | This initiative was publicised during the October 2008 Key Supplier Event to reinforce the importance of the Council's environmental purchasing priorities.   |