

SCRUTINY COMMISSION: 15 APRIL 09

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

SUSTAINABLE COMMISSIONING & PROCUREMENT STRATEGY (2009-13)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the views of the Scrutiny Commission on the draft Sustainable Commissioning & Procurement Strategy (2009-13) prior to its submission to the Cabinet for approval.

Background

2. The current Corporate Procurement Strategy expires this year. The new draft Sustainable Commissioning & Procurement Strategy (SCPS) covers a 4 year period, up to 2013, in order to align with the Sustainable Community Strategy (2008-13). The draft Strategy also contributes to the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10-12/13 and in particular the delivery of efficiency savings.
3. The new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) inspection regime requires that the Council has a commissioning and procurement strategy in place and that the Council 'commissions and procures quality services, tailored to local needs to deliver sustainable outcomes and value for money'.

Draft Strategy

4. The draft Strategy provides a framework within which the Council's commissioning and procurement activity takes place and which supports Leicestershire Together's vision of 'making Leicestershire the best possible place to live and work for everyone'.
5. Key features of the new Strategy include:
 - o A new Commissioning/Contracts Board to take an overview of the Council's contract letting and contract management processes;
 - o More collaboration and joint working with other public sector bodies, e.g. a joint approach in market analysis and development, joint specifications, joint cost reduction approaches and joint contract management;
 - o A culture of demand management in place right across the Council supported by category managers.

- A shared approach to managing costs with our suppliers, so that suppliers achieve a fair profit but at a substantially lower cost to the Council and our partners;
 - An increase in commercial skills within the Council, including procurement training for members and officers;
 - Publication of clear information on the Council's website to explain what services have been commissioned/procured on the public's behalf and what key performance measures are being used to monitor performance.
6. At this stage of the Strategy's development, stakeholders' views are being sought on the proposed content, activities and performance measures rather than seeking to present them with a largely finished document. The consultation period begins on 1 April 09 and ends on 26 June 09. Stakeholders include key suppliers, Leicestershire Together, Voluntary and Community Sector, Business Representatives, Equalities Groups, Unison as well as internal stakeholders.

Recommendation

7. The Commission is asked to consider the draft Strategy and any comments they may wish to make to Cabinet.

Equal Opportunities Implications

8. The draft Strategy aims to ensure that the Council's suppliers are appointed fairly, that there is equality in service delivery and that the Council's suppliers practice equality in employment. The recommendations from the Equality Impact Assessment conducted on the previous Corporate Procurement Strategy have been taken into account in the development of the new draft Strategy.

Background Papers

None

Circulation under Sensitive Issues

None

Officers to Contact

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Appendix

Draft Sustainable Commissioning and Procurement Strategy (2009-13)