

## **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek acceptance of the proposed Procurement Strategy for the authority.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1. One of the cornerstones of Best Value promulgated by both central Government and the Audit Commission is the requirement for all authorities to have in place a Procurement Strategy.
- 2.2. The Council's External Auditor has included the adoption of a Procurement Strategy in respect of their action plan following the audit of the Best Value Performance Plan.
- 2.3. The purpose of a Procurement Strategy is to give guidance as to the issues to be considered when decisions to procure services are taken. Once the strategy is agreed it will be necessary to ensure that changes to Contract Standing Orders and Financial regulations reflect the policies outlined in the strategy.
- 2.4. A proposed strategy is set out in the Appendix to this report for Members' consideration.

### **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. None at this stage.

### **4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. It is not a statutory requirement to have a Procurement Strategy in place. Without a strategy, however, Audit Commission Inspectors will not be in a position to give an opinion that the authority is well managed. In addition, it should be expected that the External Auditors would eventually be unable to give an unqualified opinion with regard to the Best Value Performance Plan. Authorities with failing plans can be referred to the Secretary of State for possible direct action.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS**

The adoption of the Procurement Strategy, subject to Members' views.

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