

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	19 th September 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Julie Matthews
Head of Service	Lisa Jones
Report author	Karen Bellis
Title	Denbighshire Procurement Strategy

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report outlines and introduces the new and updated Denbighshire Procurement Strategy.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. A decision is required from Cabinet to approve and accept the Denbighshire Procurement Strategy.
- 2.2. A new and updated Denbighshire Procurement Strategy is need to reflect and support the current corporate priorities and well-being goals. A procurement strategy also need to align to the upcoming UK Government Procurement Bill, and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act.
- 2.3. Expectations out of what we buy and how we buy it are increasing, and we will be expected to deliver not only value for money but also have a positive impact on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our communities – socially responsible procurement.
- 2.4. New procurement regulations, that streamline the over 300 current individual regulations, will be introduced and we need to prepare, raise awareness and train all officers affected. New powers, responsibilities and obligations are included in the Procurement Bill and this currently includes: obligation to

consider small businesses, including local businesses; produce a pipeline of future procurements that is visible and easily accessed; and, publish contract reports.

- 2.5. The Procurement Strategy also highlights that in order to meet new regulations and expectations a joined up and streamlined approach to commissioning, procurement, contract management and reporting will support Denbighshire to best gain positive outcomes from new procurement regulations.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix [2]) as part of its consideration.
- 3.2. That the Committee approves this updated Procurement Strategy that supports Denbighshire's priorities and well-being goals, and its role in Denbighshire's preparation for upcoming public procurement regulations changes.

4. Report details

- 4.1. A new and updated Denbighshire Procurement Strategy is needed to reflect and support the current corporate priorities and well-being goals. A procurement strategy also need to align to the upcoming UK Government Procurement Bill, and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act.
- 4.2. Expectations out of what we buy and how we buy it are increasing, and we will be expected to deliver not only value for money but also have a positive impact on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of our communities – socially responsible procurement. This includes considering carbon, climate and ecological impacts of what we buy and how we buy it, this is essential to meet our aim to be net carbon zero and ecologically positive by 2030.
- 4.3. New procurement regulations, that streamline the over 300 current individual regulations, will be introduced and we need to prepare, raise awareness and train all officers impacted. New powers, responsibilities and obligations are included in the Procurement Bill and this currently includes: obligation to consider small

businesses, including local businesses; produce a pipeline of future procurements that is visible and easily accessed; and, publish contract reports.

4.4. The Procurement Strategy highlights that in order to meet new regulations and expectations a joined up and streamlined approach to commissioning, procurement, contract management and reporting will support Denbighshire to best gain positive outcomes from new procurement regulations.

4.5. Please see Appendix 1 for copy of the Denbighshire Procurement Strategy

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. The Procurement Strategy will support and enable procurement to contribute to meeting all our corporate plan themes including the statutory obligation to deliver against the aims and ways of working within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

5.2. The Procurement Strategy addresses and supports the consideration of carbon and ecological impacts from our procurement.

5.3. The Procurement Strategy will embed procurement reform and principle of socially responsible procurement into the procurement cycle (commissioning - procurement – contract management). As a Contracting Authority Denbighshire has a Socially Responsible procurement duty to consider the social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts of what we buy and how we buy it. The updated Procurement Strategy and the accompanying application of new procurement regulations, duties and obligations will contribute to all nine corporate themes.

5.4. The Procurement Strategy includes, and highlights, consideration of carbon reduction in design, procurement and utilisation of procured goods, works and services. Carbon consideration is a clear objective within the Strategy and the Climate and Ecological Change Team have been fully engaged in the development.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. No financial impact identified.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. The Report confirms that the Procurement Strategy and its promotion of the new procurement regulations and specifically the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 will have an overall positive impact on Denbighshire's desired outcomes.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. Climate Ecological Change Team have been widely consulted on Carbon and bio-diversity impacts.

8.2. The updated Strategy is shaped by the statutory duties and obligations arising out of the upcoming changes in procurement law and procurement regulations.

8.3. The DCC/FCC joint procurement board have been consulted on the draft and a workshop took place with key commissioning officers from across the two authorities.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. Although there seems to be no direct costs associated with the implementation strategy it may lead to decisions which cost more. This will need to be assessed on a case by case nature and may impact, for example, the scale of projects in the future. This is obviously more of a risk at a time when we know that our financial outlook is looking extremely difficult.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1. None identified

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023, Local Government Act 2000