

WIRRAL COUNCIL

FINANCE AND BEST VALUE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 NOVEMBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2008 - 2011

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Since the Corporate Procurement Strategy (CPS) was approved by Cabinet, in December 2003, the procurement agenda both inside and outside the Council has progressed. Cabinet on 5 October 2005, approved the adoption of a revised Corporate Procurement Strategy (CPS) and Cabinet on 4 September 2008 approved a revised Strategy which will determine the procurement activity of the Council for the next three years.
- 1.2 The revised CPS is designed to address the changing agenda and carry the procurement activity of the Council forward to achieve efficiencies and savings.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Following Cabinet approval of the CPS on 5 October 2005, the Corporate Procurement Support Unit (CPSU) was given custodianship of the Strategy and the responsibility for its implementation.
- 2.2 The implementation of the CPS has been steady and, has included the restructure of the CPSU and the merger with Payments to form the Procure to Pay Section within the Finance Department. The CPSU has been instrumental in helping the Council to exceed the Gershon efficiency targets, and has successfully implemented the Oracle procurement and payments IT system.

3. CHANGING PROCUREMENT AGENDA

- 3.1 Whilst the existing CPS has moved procurement forward and achieved benefits, changing circumstances require that it be reviewed and freshly focused.
- 3.2 The continuing changing Government emphasis on procurement, including the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, and the emphasis on Shared Services, Collaboration and Partnerships, need to be addressed within the CPS so that the commitment of Council to best value procurement is clearly stated.

- 3.3. The revised CPS incorporates the changing agenda and is clear that the Council intends to use its considerable buying power to support the delivery of efficient quality services for the people of Wirral.

4. PROPOSED CORPORATE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

- 4.1. The revised Corporate Procurement Strategy is attached to this report. It details the Council commitment to best practice procurement and sets out objectives to achieve its implementation. It ensures that all procurement activities and processes are fully compliant with EU Directives and Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2. The Procure to Pay Section of the Finance Department will act as guardians of the Strategy and have developed the 'Procurement Key Priorities' illustrated at Appendix A of the CPS, which will ensure that implementation is carried out with a controlled and measured approach.
- 4.3. The Strategy is a working document and as such will need amendments when necessary which will be reported to Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are none arising directly from this report. The implementation of the Strategy will significantly affect the achievement of efficiency targets. This in turn will release resources for investment in front line services.

6. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none arising directly from this report. The Strategy does make reference to the need to work more closely with Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and social enterprises which will provide equality of opportunity for these providers.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

9. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. The Strategy makes clear reference to the need to ensure Agenda 21 issues are considered in making procurement decisions.

10. **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

11. **MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. There are none arising directly from this report.

12. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. Corporate Procurement Strategy – October 2005

13. **RECOMMENDATION**

13.1. That the revised Corporate Procurement Strategy be noted.

IAN COLEMAN
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.