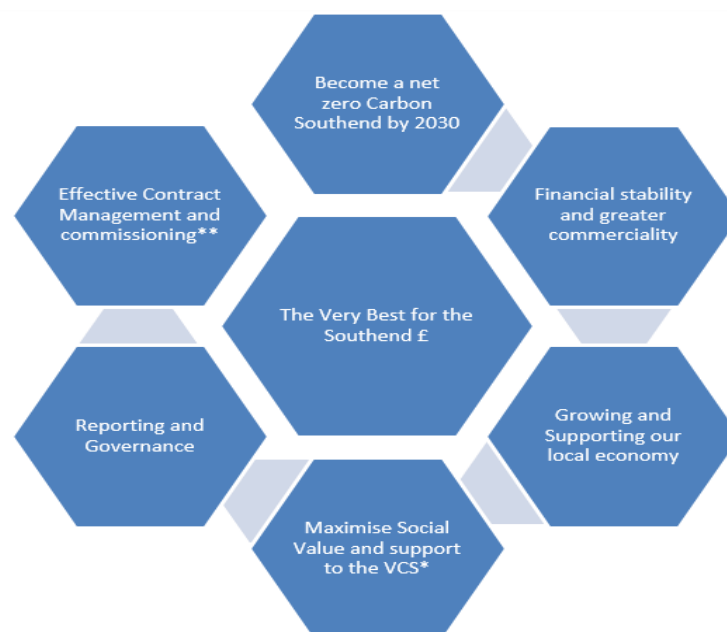


Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 28 June 2023
Classification: Decision paper
Key Decision: Yes
Title of Report: **Council Procurement and Contract Management Strategy 2023-26**
Policy Context: Revision of our expired Council Procurement Strategy.
Executive Director: Joe Chesterton (Finance & Resources)
Report Author: Lee White (Head of Procurement)
Executive Councillor: Cllr John Lamb (Portfolio Holder for Regulatory Services)

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the revised Council Procurement and Contract Management Strategy 2023-26. We commenced consultation in 2022 and so this report now brings together both feedback and comments from internal officers and members, external businesses (both from the voluntary, community and private sector) as well as taking account of our Corporate Plan, Southend 2050, the need to evidence Value for Money, and the national context we are working in. The priorities set out within this new strategy are:
 *VCS- Voluntary and Community Sector



2 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the Council Procurement and Contract Management Strategy 2023-26 (**Appendix 1**).
- 2.2 Note that once the Government have concluded the Public Procurement Reform (expected in 2024), we will ensure that any other necessary changes to our procurement processes will be delivered.
- 2.3 Note that delivery of this strategy will be through the objectives set within the Corporate Procurement Service Plan which will be revised on an annual basis.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Council's procurement strategy expired in 2020/21 and given the pressures around the pandemic on both council services and suppliers, as well as the commencement of UK Procurement reform, it wasn't the right time to start a revision of the strategy. We commenced consultation in 2022 and so this report now brings together both feedback and comments from internal officers and members, external businesses (both from the voluntary, community and private sector) as well as taking account of our corporate plan, Southend 2050, the need to evidence Value for Money, and the national context we are working in. A copy of the full strategy (**Appendix 1**) is provided.
- 3.2 Delivery of the strategy will be through the annual Corporate Procurement Service Plan and so this will allow the flexibility to review the Council's and City's changing priorities and ensure that the strategy is fit for purpose.

4 Reasons for Decisions

- 4.1 Approval of the Council's Procurement and Contract Management Strategy is required as our current strategy expired in 2020/21.
- 4.2 The strategy will be one of the key tools to supporting delivery of the council's and city's priorities especially in terms of:
 - The Council's financial stability
 - Evidencing Value for Money and the 'Very best for the Southend £'
 - Ensuring effective contract management and commissioning and the delivery of Social Value
 - Meeting our Climate Change aspirations
 - Supporting our local economy

5 Other Options

5.1 The only other options are:

- Continue with our current strategy but this is now out of date and is no longer fit for purpose given the changing priorities and national context we are now operating in.
- Decide to not have a Procurement and Contract Management Strategy but this will have a financial, local economic and environmental impact and create even more pressure on already stretched resources.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 At the centre of this new strategy is ensuring 'The very best for the Southend £' and therefore it is a key tool to ensuring that both the Council remains financially stable but also that we are maximising the local economic benefits we can create through the way we procure, manage our contracts and commissioning services.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 As the UK Procurement Reforms continue we are still obliged to meet the requirements of the UK Public Contract Regulations (2015) as well as any Procurement notices issued by Central Government. This Strategy continues to be underpinned by those regulations but looks at the opportunities within that framework that allow us to support Southend City's priorities.

8 Carbon Impact

8.1 The Environment is one of the priorities outlined within the revised strategy (Appendix 1). We have a number of Council contracts that support outcomes in terms of improving the city's environment. Social Value is also tested through a number of procurements which can deliver added value in terms of our local environment. The Corporate Procurement Team have been involved in the review of the new Social Value policy and the development of a Southend Themes and Outcomes Measures (STOMS) framework. This framework includes a number of offers which contractors can commit to in terms of Carbon Reduction. One example of success is the re-tendering of our Waste Disposal contract during 2022/23 which led to a carbon impact reduction of 90%.

8.2 We are currently working with the Climate Change team to look at a clear process which will identify which procurements will include a quality measure around Carbon Reduction Plans and their implementation. We have already built this into our new draft Procurement Strategy and is an area of focus now in terms of Effective Contract Management.

9 Equalities

- 9.1 An Equality Analysis screening was completed and signed 8th December 2022 and no further action is required.

10 Consultation

- 10.1 There has been extensive consultation on this strategy over the last 8 months including:
- Support from the East of England LGA as a critical friend throughout
 - Workshops with Council contract managers (both face to face and via Teams) during 2022 and sharing of the priorities in 2023 via the Teams Channel for Contract Managers (approximately 150 members)
 - Presentations on the priorities to Finance and Resources DLT, Extended CLT and the Economic Recovery group
 - 3 evening sessions for members in September and October 2022 (18 members attended) along with the offer of 1-1 meetings if requested
 - Initial presentation to CLT in January 2023
 - Presentation to the Voluntary and Community Sectors (via SAVS) in February 2023
 - Presentation to the Southend Local Business Breakfast on 2nd March 2023 (approximately 60-70 attendees)
 - Presentation to the Southend Business Partnership Executive on 7th March 2023

11 Appendices

- 11.1 **Appendix 1**- Council Procurement and Contract Management Strategy 2023-26