
DRAFT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Don Bristow,
Resource Management Portfolio
Responsible Director(s) - Lorraine O'Donnell, Head of Policy**

Purpose of Report

1. To seek endorsement of the revised Procurement Strategy for Darlington Borough Council.

Background

2. In July 2001 Darlington Borough Council approved a Procurement Strategy that identified the need to develop the Procurement Function to put in place a Code of Practice to assist officers in routine procurement and provide management information. A Procurement Working Group was established in the latter part of 2001 to consider the state of procurement in the Council at that time, and how best to develop a procurement function; a Corporate Procurement Advisor was appointed in February 2003.
3. In December 2002 the CPA Corporate Assessment identified a number of weaknesses in the council's approach to procurement, which we sought to address.
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5. The increased emphasis the Government has placed on procurement through the Byatt report, Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA), Implementing e.Government, and, more recently, the National Procurement Strategy necessitated review and revision of the existing strategy to reflect the work already carried out by the Procurement Advisor and outline further work needed to help Darlington achieve excellence.
6. Procurement in general, and the Procurement Strategy in particular, will again be assessed as part of the CPA process in October 2004. The Procurement Task Group, a sub group of the Resources Scrutiny Committee, has been instrumental in helping us to develop the draft Procurement Strategy.
7. The revised Procurement Strategy is needed to achieve the 2.5% savings identified in the Efficiency Review.

Outcome of Consultation

8. Consultation has taken place with Resources Scrutiny and with departments via CMT; comments were received and taken into account in the production of the draft Procurement Strategy.

Legal Implications

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

11. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Recommendation

12. Council are requested to:
 - (a) Adopt the revised Corporate Procurement Strategy.

Reasons

13. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) To ensure that Darlington Borough Council meet the milestones of the National Procurement Strategy and the IEG3 directive;
 - (b) To help the council in achieving an excellent CPA rating.

Lorraine O'Donnell
Head of Policy

Background Papers

Byatt Report – June 2001

Cabinet Report – 'Procurement Strategy' July 2001

National Procurement Strategy for Local Government – October 2003

Susan White: Extension 2019