

Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

This assessment has applied the interim guidance from Scottish Government available online at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/6918/2>

Name of Proposal	PROCUREMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 AND PROCUREMENT STRATEGY REVIEW 2019/21 (Report 369/19)
Lead Department/Service	FINANCE SERVICE

What is the aim of the proposal?

This report and the accompanying Angus Council Procurement Annual Report 2018/19 and reviewed Angus Council Procurement Strategy 2019/21 presents the Council's second statutory annual procurement report and review of the Council's Procurement Strategy under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and recommends both for publication.

The Council's first statutory annual procurement report 2017/18 and the review of its procurement strategy 2018/19 were reported and approved by Angus Council at its meeting on 14 June 2018 (Report 191/18 refers).

Stage 1 – Planning – Is this proposal/decision strategically important or not?

Notes

The guidance reminds us that the duty is set at a strategic level – these are the key, high-level decisions that the public sector takes. Many of these decisions may be made in the context of public service reform and improving outcomes for people and communities. In general, they will be decisions that affect how the public body fulfils its intended purpose, over a significant period of time. It is likely that for Angus Council the decision would involve a Committee report.

The guidance offers some examples:

Preparation of the Local Development Plan	City deals or other major investment plans	Preparing legislation
Development of new strategic frameworks	Development of significant new policies or proposals	Preparation of an annual budget
Major* procurement exercises	Decisions about the shape, size and location of the estate	Preparing a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as part of a CPP
Preparing locality plans	Preparation of a Corporate Plan	Commissioning of service

*"major" is not defined ... but in Angus see PGN 23 [Financial Regulations Guidance on "Major Procurement"](#)

The decision proposed to be asked of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 26th November 2019 is strategically important.

It involves approval of the Council's procurement strategy for 2019/21. The function of the Council's procurement strategy is to:

- underpin the Council's strategic plan, comprised by the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan/Corporate Plan and provide a strategic focus for our procurement activities.
- set the context in which the Council will work to ensure that procurement delivers value for money and directly contributes to the achievement of its broader aims, objectives and, where relevant, those of our Angus Community Planning Partnership.
- demonstrate how the Council ensures it has considered the wider social, economic and environmental aims of procurement in a consistent manner as

<p>required by the sustainable procurement duty under the 2014 Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> help businesses understand what is important to the Council in the performance and delivery of a contract. 	
<p>YES – Begin the Fairer Scotland assessment process during development of the proposal. Move to Stage 2.</p>	<p>NO – There is no requirement for a Fairer Scotland assessment. Move to Stage 5.</p>



Stage 2 – Evidence
<p>What evidence do you have about socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in relation to this issue or decision? Is it possible to gather new evidence, involving communities of interest?</p> <p>Notes 'socio-economic disadvantage' means living on a low income compared to others in Scotland, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services. Socio-economic disadvantage can be experienced in both places and communities of interest, leading to further negative outcomes such as social exclusion.</p> <p>The strategy is about how Angus Council should undertake its procurement activity so as to achieve its strategic priorities. Its aim is to guide the activity of the Council's procurement function.</p> <p>It does not set out the content of or even stipulate how to commission public-facing services. Rather, it addresses how the procurement function approaches any give procurement to ensure that it achieves best value.</p> <p>The Angus Procurement Strategy 2019/21 does link in to / support the Council's wider strategy in the following respects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> it contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local outcome 1 - We have a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities. Local Outcome 10 - Our Communities are developed in a sustainable manner it also contributes to the following priorities contained in the Angus Council Plan 2019/24: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want Angus to be a 'go to' area for businesses We want Angus Council to efficient and effective <p>As such, in terms of the Council strategic priorities it contributes to, it is strategically much more business-facing than citizen-facing.</p> <p>In order to support delivery of the Council's vision and priorities referred to above and grouped into coherent themes linked to the Council's vision and priorities, the Procurement Strategy sets out 4 Key Objectives:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement Capability Development 2. Maximising Efficiencies through Procurement 3. Development of Collaborative Opportunities 4. Fulfilment of Sustainable Procurement Duties <p>These key objectives for procurement do not directly address the reduction of</p>

inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage partly because that does not form part of the Council's vision and priorities referred to above and partly because of the business-facing nature of the procurement strategy.

The procurement strategy does however indirectly contribute to removing socio-economic disadvantage and reducing inequality. Specifically, it promotes and endorses the Council's policy approaches on:

- Securing community benefits from Angus Council procurement
- Payment of a living wage
- Securing equalities in procurement



Stage 3 – Assessment and Improvement

In discussion, consider: What are the main impacts of the proposal? How could the proposal be improved so it reduces or further reduces inequalities of outcome?

The main impacts of the proposal if approved are:

- To provide strategic focus for our procurement activities.
- To set the context in which the Council will work to ensure that procurement delivers value for money and directly contributes to the achievement of its broader aims and objectives.

If Angus Council adopts policies around the actions which it will take to reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage then the Council's procurement strategy could set out ways in which procurement activity might contribute to achievement of those policies. However, that would be an issue to be addressed in a future procurement strategy review (which the Council must undertake annually).



Stage 4 – Decision

This stage is for an appropriate officer to confirm that due regard has been paid. They should be satisfied the body has understood the evidence, considered whether the policy can narrow inequalities of outcome, considered improvements and the links to socio-economic disadvantage and equality.

The officers named below consider that due regard has been paid by Angus Council as to how it could reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when approving the Council's Procurement Strategy 2018/19.

	Prepared By	Approved By:
Officer Name:	Mark Allan	Ian Lorimer
Post:	Manager (Procurement & Commissioning)	Director of Finance
Date:	30/10/2018	