

General Introduction

There are a number of initiatives currently underway which cut across two or more of the following recommendations. Where this occurs, the update text cross references to the appropriate recommendation(s).

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Cont'
	<p>That the Chief Procurement Officer analyse the outcomes of the initial contracts using the new approach to “Delivering Successful Change” and report the results to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Board.</p>	<p>The formal training contract for ‘Delivering Successful Change’ has now been awarded to Leeds based organisation called Remark. The Council’s officers are in the process of being trained. All of the procurement project manager in Procurement Unit have now attended the training.</p> <p>It is still too early to review the project methodology’s contribution to better procurement as very few major projects have applied ‘Delivering Successful Change’ fully.</p> <p>The position therefore remains unchanged in that it is proposed that this recommendation be implemented later in the year when the project methodology is established and the contracts currently being procured using the methodology are awarded and operational.</p>		
	<p>That the Chief Procurement Officer submit a half yearly report to the appropriate Scrutiny Board on the Council’s corporate performance indicators for contracts and procurement.</p>	<p>Procurement Unit currently have three performance indicators linked to the Council's Corporate Plan. Progress against the three indicators has been reported periodically to Legal and Democratic Services Departmental Management Team.</p> <p>The first indicator was to achieve all the milestones set out in the Government's National Procurement Strategy for Local Government by their due dates. This has been achieved.</p> <p>The second two indicators relate to measuring the level of spend through collaborative arrangements, and measuring the level of spend through 'approved' arrangements. Both of these indicators presented problems</p>		

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		<p>in establishing the baseline levels upon which realistic and accurate targets could be set. Work in relation to these two indicators has therefore concentrated on amending information systems so that the level of spend in each are can be measured. The recently implemented electronic procurement system referred to above, together with developments to the Council's finance system mean that we should be able to identify baseline figures for these indicators by Spring 2008.</p> <p>There are currently no mandatory indicators for procurement. Proposals for a 'One Council' Commissioning Strategy are being developed to replace the current Corporate Procurement Strategy. Performance management of the Council's commissioning and procurement activities will be considered under the new strategy.</p>		
	<p>That the Chief Procurement Officer ensures that the initiatives being undertaken in “Delivering Successful Change” incorporate safeguards to manage potential conflict with contractors at an early stage.</p>	<p>The Delivering Successful Change methodology includes mechanisms to identify and manage potential conflict arising during the project, for example - highlight reports, issue logs, risk logs, etc.</p> <p>For conflict arising during a contract, the Council's standard contractual terms and conditions include an 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' clause which requires the parties to seek mediation and similar forms of dispute resolution without recourse to the Courts.</p> <p>Procurement Unit is preparing guidance and training on contract management issues which will include advice on managing contractual relationships and negotiation. This training package will be available to Council officers from April 08</p>		