

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	6 June 2024
Title:	Sustainable Procurement Policy
Report of:	Homira Javadi, Director of Finance and Performance
Cabinet member:	Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for finance, assets and community wealth building
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To seek members' comments and approval of our sustainable procurement policy which outlines how the councils are sourcing goods and services in an environmentally and socially responsible manner.
Decision type:	Key decision
Officer recommendation(s):	To seek members approval of the policy subject to final sign off by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for finance, assets and community wealth building.
Reasons for recommendations:	This public facing document would outline the council's approach to sourcing goods and services in a way that aligns with our Climate & Nature and Community Wealth Strategies.
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1 Purpose and Scope of the Policy

- 1.1 Lewes District Council recognises the broad impact that local authority spending can have on the local economy, environment and communities. The Council has announced a climate emergency and outlined plans to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- 1.2 The Sustainable Procurement Policy is a cross cutting policy that spans across all the themes in the Reimagining Lewes District Corporate Plan 2024-2028. However, the purpose for developing this policy relates in particular to the themes of tackling the climate and nature emergencies and creating sustainable community wealth.

- 1.3 Committing to a sustainable approach to procurement is part of meeting our climate objectives and wider environmental ambitions, but it is also about generating local wealth for the economy and providing opportunities for community groups in a way that is interconnected.
- 1.4 In addition to aligning procurement with the council's strategic priorities, further reasons for developing this policy are to publicly state the ways the council is already delivering sustainable procurement to improve transparency for residents and recognition by third party sustainability assurance bodies. Another purpose is to outline processes for identifying projects, monitoring and reporting on progress in delivering sustainable procurement – these were areas that officers have suggested as aspects for the policy to address during the consultation phase.
- 1.5 A key part of delivering this sustainable and interconnected way of procurement is to engage with communities and contractors, from the outset, but also during the course of the procurement where possible, to identify practical opportunities for council contracts to add environmental, economic or social value to the area, or to mitigate potential adverse impacts where they might arise.
- 1.6 Further details are available in the draft Sustainable Procurement Policy document in Appendix 1

2 Consultation

- 2.1 We have consulted with our environment team, equalities team, planning and regeneration team and property development team as well as members who hold the portfolio for finance and resources at each council.

3 Corporate plan and council policies

- 3.1 Reimagining Lewes District Corporate Plan 2024-2028; Lewes Climate and Nature Strategy 2024

4 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

- 4.1 One alternative would be to have no public facing policy document. However, this would mean that the councils would not be communicating the full range of activities undertaken to meet environmental strategies. It would also mean that external assurance bodies in the environmental space might not give as high scores to our councils in their benchmarking as our activities would otherwise merit.
- 4.2 Another alternative would be to have a public facing policy, but to have a different emphasis than 'sustainable' procurement. However, this would not align as closely with our councils' strategic priorities..

5 Financial appraisal

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications concerning the proposed sustainable procurement policy. However, officers should ensure that all subsequent

procurement exercises undertaken in line with the new policy are done in accordance with the Councils Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 Including specific intentions and requirements in a published council policy means that officers and members must adhere to its principles and be held to account where necessary.
- 6.2 All procurement exercises should be carried out in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules, which should be reviewed to ensure this new policy can be efficiently incorporated to procurement processes and avoid any potential conflict.

Ref: 012947-JOINT-CEC

7 Risk management implications

- 7.1 A risk in procurement would be overly prioritising one aspect of sustainable procurement over other parts. The mitigation for this is to consider the interconnected factors – environmental, economic and social – for each procurement decision on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the range of impacts and opportunities of council procurement are sufficiently considered and a balanced approach to procurement is achieved.

8 Equality analysis

- 8.1 The approach to procurement we are outlining in this policy is sustainable and interconnected. It requires engagement with a range of community groups and contractors to reflect the diversity of our communities. The impacts in terms of equalities should be positive since we are encouraging opportunities for a range of business types as well as supporting opportunities for people who face challenges getting work – such as ex-offenders, people with disabilities, long term unemployed and those not in education, employment or training.

9 Environmental sustainability implications

- 9.1 A major purpose of the sustainable procurement policy is to align our spending with the councils' environmental targets. The approach to this is set out in more detail in the environment section of the policy.

10 Contribution to Community Wealth Building

- 10.1 Lewes District Council has committed to community wealth building as an approach to economic development. One of the main pillars of this approach is progressive procurement of goods and services. This policy outlines the council's approach to procurement in a way that is interconnected and sustainable in the way that it factors in environmental, economic, and social impacts on our region. A key aspect is encouraging local suppliers and expenditure to retain wealth in the region where possible.

11 Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Sustainable Procurement Policy

12 Background papers

The background papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

- NA