



**Cabinet
12 October 2020**

**Report from the Strategic Director
of Customer and Digital Services**

Procurement Strategy 2020-2023

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	One: Appendix A: Procurement Strategy
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s):	Rajesh Shori, Head of Procurement rajesh.shori@brent.gov.uk Tel: 0208 937 1598

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the Procurement Strategy 2020-2023 aligning with the remaining term of the Borough Plan 2019 – 2023. The strategy also places heavy focus on recent significant events relating to the impact of Covid 19 on the local economy and supplier base as well as Black Lives Matter movement and sets out how it will look to support these alongside the Council's other key priorities.

2.0 Recommendation for Cabinet

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Procurement Strategy 2020-2023 set out in appendix A.

3.0 Procurement Strategy 2020-2023

- 3.1 How and what we procure has an important role to play in helping to support the delivery of the Council priorities.
- 3.2 The new strategy defines how Procurement will work with key sections of the Council e.g. Employment Skills and Enterprise and Strategy and Partnerships in supporting our wider engagement with the community as a whole.

Other key areas that Procurement will need to work closely with in the delivery of the various pillars of the Procurement Strategy are: Finance, Legal and all Directorates.

3.3 The Procurement Strategy aligned to Brent Council's strategic themes builds further on Brent's commitment to support Community Wealth Building and reviving the local economy.

3.4 It comprises of five pillars, which will be central to delivering better procurement of goods, services and works contracts over the next three years with each pillar set against key SMART outcome(s) .

The five core Pillars are:

- Community Wealth Building – *Increase the number of local suppliers we use from our current baseline*
- Sustainability – *Reduce waste through recycling*
- Circular Economy – *Reduced use of natural resources by purchasing goods and services using recycled materials and increased investment with local businesses in Brent operating within the circular economy.*
- Social Value and Ethical Policy – *Increase local investment from Council awarded contracts.*
- Active Procurement – *Deliver a reduction in procurement spend during the period of this strategy – Target £2m*

3.5 It also sets out how the Council will promote effective procurement across the Borough, by having regard to local employment and skills shortage, social value, localisation and ensuring wherever possible contracts are Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) friendly.

3.6 A fundamental tenant of the strategy is that the organisations and individuals we do business with, have compatible values and their culture aligns with the Council where this is legally permissible.

3.7 Community Wealth Building

The Local Authority is well placed as an Anchor Institution to promote opportunities for SME's, employee owned businesses, social enterprises and other community based or owned businesses, which in turn will help support the aim of recirculating wealth and surplus locally but primarily within the borough of Brent.

Community Wealth Building is not a 'quick win' but with support and backing of the Council, the Procurement Strategy can help to support its development. Thereby as we progress embedding Community Wealth Building within our procurement psyche and incorporating the recommendations of The Poverty Commission and Black Community Action Plan within our supplier base and community, the success which comes from future procurements can be used as a catalyst to engage with other Anchor Institutions to explore and incorporate this programme within their organisations. Examples of Anchor

Institutions in Brent would include, NHS trusts, trade unions, large local businesses like Wembley Stadium and housing associations.

3.8 Sustainability

Brent Council is committed to adopting a sustainable approach for all products and services it procures and to harness its purchasing power in order to: help combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions; reduce waste, save resources; improve air quality; and enhance green space and promote biodiversity.

Improving sustainability throughout our supply chain is an essential component of our commitment to reduce our environmental impact and lead by example.

3.9 Circular Economy

The Circular economy is about taking the ethos of embedding sustainability into everything the Council does a step further, moving from a linear (purchase, produce, use and dispose) to a circular economy (produce, use, repair, recycle). This means we can make the earth's limited resources last longer by keeping items in high value use for as long as possible.

It's not only good for the environment, it's also good for society and the economy as more jobs could be created through a repair, refurbished and recycling economy with more opportunities for SME's by educating, training and signposting to drive innovative ideas to support the circular economy.

3.10 Social Value and Ethical Policy

Brent is firmly committed to social value and has joined the Co-Operative Councils' Innovation Network, a collaboration of 32 likeminded authorities, with a view to finding better ways of working for, and with, people to the benefit of their communities.

Social Value can help support Community wealth-building aims to revive local economies, renew trust in local services and deliver a renaissance of local government; by giving local businesses and local communities a bigger stake in the local economy.

To enable and support this vision, we have developed a new Social Value and Ethical Procurement Policy which sets out how we will ensure that our local community is central to the way we purchase goods and services, demonstrating that small changes can have big impacts across the local economy.

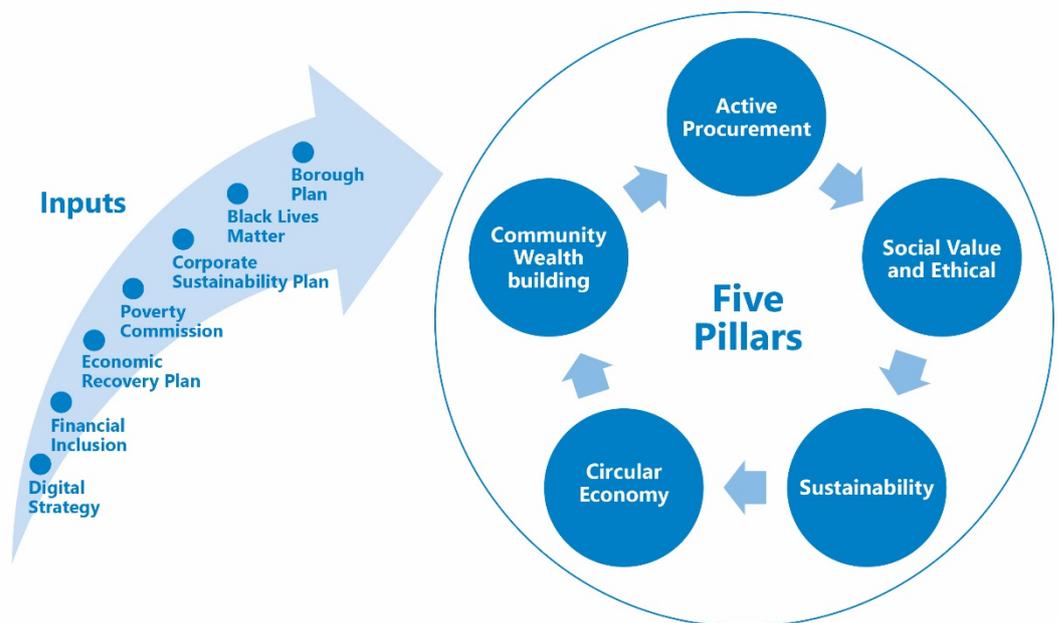
3.11 Active Procurement

High quality procurement support is not only essential for delivering better procurements but also for developing a knowledge and intelligence base of data so we are well placed to help support the delivery of the Council Priorities. The term Active Procurement is to highlight that as a key resource in the Council we will continue to be innovative, reflective and proactive. In addition to this through these activities we aim to support the Council's medium term financial plan which has a savings target of £2m over the period of this strategy to be applied to all procurement spend.

3.12 Making it Happen

The Procurement Strategy in Appendix A sets out the details and timescales to implement the strategy and also include within each pillar of the strategy the key Outcomes/ KPIs that the Council will be looking to achieve. Progress across all pillars will be reported on Scrutiny Committee every six months and to Cabinet in an annual report.

The process flow of how this will work is highlighted below.



4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 A change in policy that adds additional responsibilities within a tender process could add a financial burden on the supplier that would likely be passed on to

the Council, however this would be dependent on the specific contract and will be assessed on a case by case basis.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval. Such a Procurement Strategy must comply with and be delivered in accordance with all applicable EU and UK legislation and guidance, to include the Public Contract Regulations 2015, the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and the Equality Act 2015.
- 5.2 Officers in Legal Services will continue to provide support and guidance in the implementation of the Procurement Strategy and any necessary amendments to contract and tender documents.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 The Procurement Strategy is designed to help promote equality and Officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 Not applicable

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 Not applicable

Report sign off:

PETER GADSDON

Strategic Director of Customer and
Digital Services