

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Exemplar text that could be included by way of introductory comment to the CPS

This council recognises the role it has to play in tackling Climate Change and is committing itself to sustainable procurement. Sustainable procurement is not only a question of improving efficiency, it is also about using market power to bring environmental and social benefits both locally and globally.

Climate Change affects all areas of the council's activities. We need to consider how we use natural resources, and how our procurement activities affect biodiversity and poverty. Every product or service has an environmental impact throughout its life-cycle – from the extraction of raw materials and manufacturing, through to a product's use and disposal. Smart procurement decisions can make a huge difference, with the benefits being felt both locally and globally.

The public sector has a hugely significant role because its purchasing power can drive the market towards more sustainable goods and services. Our purchasing actions also have social implications – improving working conditions, supporting Fair Trade, working against Child Labour, providing employment opportunities for marginalised groups.

It is recognised that certain key areas of local authority activity provide clear opportunities for improving efficiency, reducing environmental impacts and saving money. These include: Energy, Cleaning Services, Catering, IT, and Construction. We are committing ourselves to transforming our procurement procedures in these areas, among others.

Smart procurement also means efficient procurement. We can no longer simply consider initial purchase price when buying products and services, ignoring energy and water costs, maintenance expenditure and disposal costs. We will now move to a 'whole-life' approach to procurement.

We recognise and embrace the leadership role the local authority has in moving our city towards a more sustainable way of life. Much work has already been done in Corporate Services over the past three years to put in place the mechanisms that will enable us to properly monitor our procurements and, thereby, set targets and manage the change to a more sustainable procurement process. This corporate procurement strategy provides another stepping stone towards the council becoming an exemplar of sustainable procurement.