

Foreword by Simon Wiles (CPFA)

Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive



The strategic importance and role of procurement has gained greater prominence nationally in recent years. A series of Government reports including Egan, Byatt and more latterly the Gershon report, have all drawn attention to the need for the better use and management of effective procurement practice to secure benefits across the public sector

Local authorities generally have always struggled to meet the often competing demands of their communities within the limited financial resources at their disposal and York is no different. Indeed as the second lowest funded unitary authority in England & Wales we have even greater pressures than most. Effective and efficient procurement arrangements are recognised as one of the main ways in which the Council can secure maximum benefit from the resources available for both revenue and capital purposes: in terms of both improvements in our services and our cost base. But a well thought out procurement strategy can help us to do more than that. It can ensure we direct the Council's spending power in ways that can best support the wider aims and objectives of the Council, including the need to promote the sustainability agenda, support the local economy and work effectively in partnership with others.

This document sets out our vision for the future and the actions we will take over the next 3 years to achieve our ambitions for procurement. The strategy is key to the Council's overall improvement agenda and will play a crucial role in helping the organisation achieve 'Excellence' in the future.

Your views and comments on the strategy would be most welcome. If you would like to discuss it further please contact Liz Ackroyd (Assistant Director of Resources, ARM) at the City Finance Centre.

Signature

Simon Wiles

Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive