

PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

2026-2031

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Executive Summary

Rotherham Council is committed to using its spending power to improve the lives of local people, strengthen the Borough's economy, and ensure that public money is spent responsibly, transparently, and in line with national and local priorities. This Procurement Strategy sets out how the Council will achieve these aims between 2026 and 2031.

The strategy places strong emphasis on **social value, ethical procurement, environmental responsibility, and high-quality contract delivery**. It reflects the Council's structure, where **procurement is delivered through a centralised professional service**, while **contract management is devolved across directorates** to ensure accountability and close oversight of service delivery.

The strategy aligns with the Council Plan, Social Value Policy, Ethical Procurement Policy, Climate Change Action Plan, Medium-Term Financial Strategy, and the Borough's Inclusive Growth ambitions. It also reflects national policy, including the **National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS)** and the **Procurement Act 2023**.



1. Our Commitment

Rotherham Council spends significant public funds each year on goods, works, and services with external suppliers.

This strategy ensures that for every pound spent through procurement, the Council:



Supports Local Communities

Strengthening local businesses and neighbourhoods



Delivers Value for Money

High-quality services that maximise every pound



Acts Ethically & Sustainably

Meeting the highest environmental and ethical standards



Ensures Compliant & Responsible Activity

Aligned with national legislation and policy



Drives a Better Borough

Creating a fairer, greener, more prosperous future

2. How Procurement Works in Rotherham

The Council operates a centralised procurement function, responsible for:

Policy, Governance & Legal Compliance

Ensuring strong frameworks and regulatory adherence including national legislation and strategic requirements.

Strategic Sourcing

Engaging markets to secure best value and outcomes.

Directorate Support

Providing expert advice, tools, training, guidance and assurance.

Contract management is devolved across the Council, meaning:

Directorate Accountability

Monitoring supplier performance and outcomes.

Service Oversight

Managing delivery, risk, and compliance including, social value.

This model ensures strong governance while keeping contract oversight close to service delivery.

3. National and Local Policy Alignment

The strategy supports and reflects:

3.1 National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS)

The NPPS sets out national priorities for public procurement. Rotherham Council will embed these priorities by focusing on:

Social Value

Supporting jobs, skills and community wellbeing.

Commercial & Procurement Capability

Ensuring staff have the right skills and tools.

Supplier Resilience

Supporting a diverse and sustainable supply base.



3. National and Local Policy Alignment

The strategy supports and reflects:



3.2 Procurement Act 2023 (and other procurement legislation)

The Council will meet all requirements relating to transparency, fairness, competition and contract publication.

3. National and Local Policy Alignment

The strategy supports and reflects:

3.3 The Council's Local Policy Framework

The strategy support the Council's:



Rotherham Council Plan 2025-2030.



Financial & Procurement Procedure Rules.



Medium-Term Financial Strategy.



Ethical Procurement Policy:



Social Value Policy;



Climate Change Action Plan;



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Framework;



Modern Slavery.



4. Strategic Priorities 2026-2031

4.1 Delivering Social Value

The Council will ensure that procurement delivers benefits such as:

-  Good local jobs and skills development for local people.
-  Strengthened and sustainable community and voluntary organisations.
-  Equality of opportunity for disadvantaged people and communities including disabled people.
-  Young people have the opportunity to develop skills and find worthwhile employment.
-  A strong local economy.
-  Greater environmental sustainability including accessible green public spaces.

4. Strategic Priorities 2026-2031

4.2 Upholding Ethical Procurement Principles:

The Council will ensure that all suppliers:

⚖️ Respect human rights and fair labour standards.

🔗 Prevent modern slavery and exploitation.

🔍 Operate responsibly and transparently.

🌱 Minimise environmental harm.

🛡️ Demonstrate integrity and anti-corruption practices.

Ethical standards will be built into procurement processes and contract terms



4. Strategic Priorities 2026-2031

4.3 Ensuring Compliance and Good Governance:

The Council will:



📄 Maintain clear policies and procedures aligned with national legislation.

🎓 Provide training for staff involved in procurement and contract management.

🔍 Ensure transparency through publication of notices and contract information.

🛡️ Strengthen internal controls through escalation and audit processes.

4. Strategic Priorities 2026-2031

4.4 Strengthening Contract and Supplier Management:

The Council will:



Monitor performance, risk, social value and ethical compliance.



Build strong relationships with key suppliers.



Intervene early where performance issues arise.



Publicly report supplier performance where required to do so.



Strengthen internal oversight within the Council through reporting on contract management performance, through to SLT.



Enhance training and guidance offer available to contract managers to help and promote stronger contract management.

4. Strategic Priorities 2026-2031

4.5 Supporting Financial Sustainability:

The Council will:



 Use category management and market intelligence to secure value for money.

 Challenge demand and reduce duplication.

 Encourage innovation and digital solutions.

 Improve contract performance to reduce avoidable costs.

4. Strategic Priorities 2026-2031

4.6 Building a Strong and Diverse Supply Base:

The Council will seek to:

👉 Engage early with suppliers to shape opportunities.

🏢 Reduce barriers for SMEs and VCSEs.

⚖️ Promote fair competition and responsible supply chains.

📌 Support local businesses to compete for Council contracts.



5. Governance & Accountability

 **Strategic Leadership Team** oversees delivery, risk and compliance.

 **Directorates / Services** responsible for contract performance and social value delivery and effectively planning their future procurement requirements.

 **Procurement Team** provides professional advice and ensures compliance.

 **Internal Audit** provides assurance on governance and ethical standards.

 **Audit Committee** receives an annual update on procurement activity and performance.



6. Measuring Success

Progress will be measured through:

-  Increased spend with local SMEs and VCSEs.
-  Delivery of measurable social value outcomes.
-  Alignment with NNPS priorities.
-  Compliance with procurement legislation and internal rules.
-  Improved contract performance and reduced risk.

