

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Democratic Renewal Scrutiny Panel
2.	Date:	27th January, 2011
3.	Title:	Procurement Strategy – Red Status Actions
4.	Directorate:	NULL

5. Summary

The purpose of the Procurement Strategy is to set out how the Council intends to procure its goods, works and services in order to support the Authority's overall aims and objectives over the life span of the Strategy. It outlines the Council's current position and clearly points to areas where we need to improve with a supporting action plan to deliver those areas. The associated action plan is managed by the Council's Procurement Panel and actions within are assigned owners and are performance managed.

Three actions in the plan currently have a red rag status and have had this status for over a year.

This report will explain the background to these actions and outline the current position for each action.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel take note of the reasons for the delayed action points and any proposed remedial action.

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 Action descriptions and reasons for delay

There are currently three action points in the procurement strategy action plan that have red rag status assigned to them.

Action Ref.	Description	Action Owner	Reason for Delay
2.02	To write and publish a Rotherham centric "Procurer's guide to dealing with the Third Sector". This guide to be approved by the Procurement Panel and be adhered to in the tendering and management of future contracts.	Zafar Saleem	ERDF funding was secured by the Council's External Funding Team to recruit an officer whose role would be to strengthen the council's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). This post would have delivered this action. However due to a lack of match funding it was not possible to create this post and consequently the opportunity to use this funding was lost.
2.03	VCS Training to be provided for procurement officers.	Zafar Saleem	The training was to be provided by the officer above.
3.05	To conduct equality and diversity audits on 2 key suppliers per year.	Zafar Saleem	The Community Engagement Team advises that there had been a lack of resource to conduct the audits. This action will be rescheduled for 2011/12.

7.2 Proposals

2.02

The Procurement Panel have been using generic guidance drawn up by the National Audit Office for interim advice. This guidance is extremely thorough, up to date and relevant for any local authority to use. In light of the lack of resources it is proposed that officers use this advice as a permanent solution, completing the action.

2.03

With the above NAO guidance, VCS training for procurement officers should not be necessary as the guidance is straightforward and contains links to guidance on other areas of procurement such as procurement legislation. If officers need any clarification on certain elements of the guidance, the

Procurement Panel should be able to provide it. It is proposed that this action be closed off.

3.05

The reasons for conducting equality and diversity audits on key suppliers every year are:

- To ensure key suppliers are carrying out their equality and diversity duties as per their policies
- To promote the importance of equality and diversity issues throughout the supply chain
- To work with our suppliers to agree any remedial action that may be required and ensure it is carried out to an action plan
- To ensure that the Council's reputation for working with compliant suppliers remains unblemished

The Council has carried out audits on key suppliers' environmental performance for three years running and this has borne good results – including the cessation of illegal practices by one key supplier.

This action therefore remains unchanged and due to an increase in resources in the Community Engagement Team following the recent Commissioning, Policy and Performance review, it will be rescheduled as a priority for 2011/12.

8. Finance

All costs for implementing the Corporate Procurement Strategy are currently being absorbed within existing budgets though some unbudgeted costs may arise and funding sources may need to be identified.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

If the actions in the above plan are not met the Corporate Procurement Strategy may not be fully implemented and embedded across the Council which could impact on the Council's ability to evidence value for money.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Delivery of the Corporate Procurement Strategy
SME Friendly Concordat
LAA indicators around the VCS

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Corporate Procurement Strategy

National Procurement Strategy

NAO Successful Commissioning Toolkit:

http://www.nao.org.uk/guidance_good_practice/third_sector/successful_commissioning/successful_commission_toolkit/toolkit_home.aspx

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