

# LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

## RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 29 September 2021

### PROCUREMENT STRATEGY (Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Keith Mattinson - Director of Corporate Services – Telephone Number 01772 866804

*Table 1 Executive Summary and Recommendations*

#### **Executive Summary**

The current Procurement Strategy covering the period 2018-2021 was approved in May 2018, copy attached as appendix 1. As such we would normally produce a new Procurement Strategy for 2022-2025.

The Government published a green paper 'Transforming Public Sector Procurement' in the last financial year. We are currently awaiting the outcome from this, which will inform our future Procurement Strategies. Hence until such time as this is received it appears pointless to update our existing Strategy.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

The Resources Committee is asked to extend the current Procurement Strategy to cover 2022/23.

#### **Information**

The Government published a green paper 'Transforming Public Sector Procurement' in December last year.

The proposals within the Green Paper are intended to shape the future of public procurement in this country for many years to come. The Government's goal is to speed up and simplify our procurement processes, place value for money at their heart, and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery. The current regimes for awarding public contracts are too restrictive with too much red tape for buyers and suppliers alike, which results in attention being focused on the wrong activities rather than value and transparency. It is now felt that a progressive, modern regime is required which can adapt to the fast-moving environment in which business operates. Markets and commercial practice are constantly evolving and the need to ensure that the new regulatory framework drives a culture of continuous improvement to support more resilient, diverse and innovative supply chains.

The Government proposes to comprehensively streamline and simplify the complex framework of regulations that currently govern public procurement. Rationalising and clarifying the parallel rules in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016, the Concession Contracts Regulations 2016 and the Defence and Security Public Contracts Regulations 2011, replacing them all with a single, uniform set of rules for all contract awards. This will be supplemented with

sector-specific parts or sections where different rules are required for effective operation or to protect our national interest, for example in the defence or utilities sectors.

The Government's stated aim is to provide the UK with a modern, fit-for-purpose set of rules, to minimise the bureaucratic burden for contracting authorities and businesses, facilitate innovation and the participation of SMEs, and improve the process of challenging decisions in the courts.

If the proposals are implemented, they will have significant and long-term impact on public sector contracting.

The consultation closed on 10 March 2021, but it is suggested that reforms are unlikely to be in place before the end of 2021 and some have suggested not until 2022/2023 but at this stage no guidance or outcomes of the consultation have been shared.

### **Business Risk**

The Authority recognises the importance of a professional procurement department which provides commercial support and guidance in regard to the purchasing of goods, services and/or works. The Procurement Strategy supports a structured approach to procurement and aligns with local, regional and national policy. Delaying updating the Procurement Strategy by 12 months will have minimal impact.

### **Environmental Impact**

None

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

None

### **HR Implications**

None

### **Financial Implications**

None

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

*Table 2 Details of any background papers*

Paper:	
Date:	
Contact:	
Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate:	