

Post Scrutiny - Executive Response

In Respect of: Scrutiny Review of the Council's Tendering Process

Date:

Cabinet Deputy: Councillor Jim Fitzpatrick, First Deputy (Performance and Finance)

Coordinating Officer: Ben Jay, Assistant Executive Director (Finance)

Partnership: Prosperous Delivery Board

Recommendations	Accepted/ Rejected	Executive Response	Officer Responsible	Action By (Date)
1. That the Council look to strengthen the way that contracts are monitored, particularly 'off contract' spending, with a selection of purchases being routinely examined by the Council's Audit Team.	Accepted	The change in Council budgets in recent years means we must look at all opportunities to reduce costs including contracting and procurement activity. This will include discussion with service management teams and some spot checking of purchases made 'off-contract'.	Ben Jay	Ongoing

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2. If goods and services cannot be procured in Tameside the Council ensures that options are explored within the Greater Manchester area, before national Suppliers are used.	Accepted	The corporate procurement function is engaged both with services and with other GM partners to ensure that local and regional suppliers are used where possible, within the constraints of contract regulations and standing orders. Work to increase the numbers of suppliers will continue and we will look to grow this further over time, ensuring where possible and financially viable local and regional suppliers are used.	Ben Jay	Ongoing
3. That the Council promotes registration on the Chest by targeting the suppliers that are already used by the Council.	Accepted	This work is ongoing. We hope to increase the number of registered suppliers significantly in the next months. The Council is continually promoting registration on the Chest with suppliers and the increases in registered numbers should develop on an on-going basis.	Ben Jay	Ongoing
4. That the Council looks at the possibility of promoting The Chest on business rate letters and invoices, encompassing all businesses in Tameside.	Accepted	This is one way to promote the chest – other routes will also be explored as this option may have limitations. There will be a focus on constantly helping and supporting local suppliers.	Ben Jay	Ongoing

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5. That the Council look at the potential benefits of linking The Chest with the new Agresso procurement system.	Accepted	Seeking to connect the Chest to Agresso would have benefits, however this may be a lesser priority that some of the other recommendations. The aim is to achieve this whilst also looking more broadly at the Procurement to Payment system on a recurring basis.	Ben Jay	Ongoing
6. That the Council look to introduce social value clauses and apprenticeship requirements into contract design and criteria, where possible.	Accepted	This work is on-going and will continue to develop further.	Ben Jay	Ongoing
7. That the Council reviews the amount spent in neighbouring authorities, to identify opportunities to bring this within Tameside.	Accepted	All supplier spending is the subject of enhanced targeted financial reporting to services. Due to continued fluctuations in the council's current spending capacity and unstable financial restrictions this will continue as a target to achieve.	Ben Jay	Ongoing
8. That the council improve the monitoring that takes place for contracts below £20,000, with the view to getting low level 'off contract' spending onto a contract and then a bigger contract, where possible.	Accepted	All supplier spending is the subject of enhanced targeted financial reporting to services. However, the initial priority will be for spending in the range £20k-£60k as this will yield greater benefit. Although not all spending requires annual updates, instances will occur where off contract spending develops into larger contracts.	Ben Jay	Ongoing

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9. That the Council's Procurement Team work with the Organisational Development Unit to provide procurement champions across the Council with training and guidance relating to procurement processes and management of contracts.	Accepted	This is anticipated to form part of the recommendations of the 'whole system' review of procurement –to-payment processes and is expected to go wider than just the procurement champions. This work is being continually developed and is coming into fruition and remains an objective for Procurement and Organisational Development Teams.	Ben Jay	Due to be finalised summer 2013 and operational autumn 2013.
10. That the Council ensures that procurement processes are clear and local quotes are sought for all contracts, where possible.	Accepted	This is anticipated to form part of the recommendations of the 'whole system' review of procurement –to-payment processes.	Ben Jay	Due to be finalised summer 2013 and operational autumn 2013.