Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrick Cooncil

Ref: FOI / 6544

03rd August 2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Ethical Procurement Policy

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

Q. Is it possible for you to send me the latest version of your council's ethical procurement policy, approved in January 2024?

A. Derry City and Strabane Council does not currently have an Ethical Procurement Policy. The January 2024 report (attached) referred to in your request relates to the development of a policy.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Cavanagh
Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer

Title of Report: Ethical Procurement Policy	Officer Presenting: Lead Assurance Officer Author: Lead Assurance Officer

1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the steps that Council are currently taking to enable the implementation of an Ethical Procurement Policy.

2 Background

2.1 Council is committed to the development and implementation of an Ethical Procurement Policy. Officers aimed to have this Policy developed in October 2024 following the implementation of the new Procurement Act 2023. However, Members will be aware that the implementation of this Act has been delayed until 24th February 2025.

2.2 Officers are currently working towards the development of this Policy; however, the Policy cannot be finalised until the new Procurement Act is implemented and Council are aware of the processes and procedures that need to be introduced to ensure that we comply with the requirements of the Act.

2.3 The Procurement Act 2023 (Act) aims to improve the way public procurement is regulated to:

2.3.1 Create a simpler and more flexible, commercial system.

2.3.2 Open up public procurement to new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts.

2.3.3 Embed transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised.

3 Key Issues

3.1 There are currently several strands of work currently underway within the Council which will lead to the development and implementation of an Ethical Procurement Policy within the next few months:

3.1.1 Officers in the Climate and Biodiversity Section are incorporating Ethical Procurement into Council's Responsible Procurement Strategy, which is being developed in collaboration with Sustainable Northern Ireland as part of the Innovate UK Programme. This initiative underscores the Council's commitment to ethical practices and sustainability in our procurement processes.

3.1.2 The Council has considered in the past the ability of Council to implement the BDS campaign through procurement. Whilst there are a number of legal impediments to this the BDS working group continues to explore the extent to which these aims might be progressed within a broader ethical procurement framework.

3.1.3 Community Wealth Building – As members will be aware, the Council is represented on the Community Wealth Building Hub (CWB). This group consists of a number of social economic organisations in the council area and has previously presented to council. The work of the CWB hub provides a forum to discuss all aspects of procurement and has a number of actions within its plan associated with council and the wider public procurement. This would be included within any revised ethical procurement policy.

3.1.4 Social Value Workshop (City Deal) – The Council recognises the importance of social value clauses within our procurement and the potential to leave lasting legacies within communities after a capital build project has completed. Council has already held a social value workshop with its city deal partners including UU, WHSCT, NWRC and various government departments. The purpose of the workshop was to begin the conversation to ensure as we collectively develop our procurement documents for the various city deal projects, social value is an important element of those projects.

3.1.5 New Procurement Act 2023 – Procurement will be liaising with all departments regarding upcoming procurements and will ensure that all Regulated Contracts covered by the Act will be in adherence to the new requirements.

3.1.6 Social Value Clauses – Procurement is currently liaising with all Council departments & Strategic Investment Board Social Value Toolkit regarding the inclusion of Social Clauses into the applicable Regulated Contract/s.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

4.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Background

None