

Policy & Resources and Community & Regeneration

Joint Scrutiny Meeting

10.06.21

Advancing Progressive Procurement

For members to receive a report on the council's commitment to advancing progressive procurement.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

1. To consider the Advancing Progressive Procurement report.

Reasons:

This review of progressive procurement opportunities was originally planned under the Carmarthenshire public sector food procurement project, funded through the Welsh Government Foundational Economy Challenge fund. Although still supported through this work the COVID-19 situation has provided greater focus and impetus and there was an opportunity to extend the original scope of the project from just food to cover all of the Council's procured spend. This work is very closely aligned with the Council's economic recovery plan with progressive procurement being a key theme of that plan.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: YES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Emlyn Dole, Leader

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Jason Jones
Helen Pugh

Report Author:

Gwyneth Ayers & Clare Jones

Designations:

Head of Regeneration

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
POLICY & RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY & REGENERATION
JOINT SCRUTINY MEETING
10.06.21

Advancing Progressive Procurement

Officers from the Council's procurement, economic development and corporate policy team have been working with CLES (Centre for Local Economic Strategies) as part of the wider Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB) public sector food procurement project funded through the Welsh Government Foundational Economy Challenge Fund. CLES are widely regarded as leaders in this field having worked with the likes of Preston City Council on their procurement and community wealth building approaches.

Other PSB partners involved in the wider food specific project include Hywel Dda University Health Board, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Coleg Sir Gâr and the findings of that work will be reported to the PSB at its 23 March 2021 meeting. However, this report and recommendations is specific to the Council and has taken account of all Council procured spend areas (not just food related spend as with the PSB partners). The work undertaken by CLES has focused on the following areas:

- Strategic review
- Evidence review including local economy analysis; spend analysis; and gap analysis
- Stakeholder engagement
- Review and development of existing toolkits
- Advancing progressive procurement action plan.

Key recommendations from the CLES report (copy attached)

The report makes 9 key recommendations for the Council to consider. Alongside these recommendations are a series of suggested steps to make progress against the recommendations. These are noted on pages 60-65 of the main report.

1. Make community wealth building a more explicit, central strategic narrative
2. Incorporate an emphasis on sectoral transition in the Councils economic recovery and reform programme.
3. Increase the strategic profile of procurement.
4. Systematically review opportunities to localise spend, prioritising interventions where there is a strong overlap between leakage and local economic vulnerability.
5. Deepen and extend the approach to spend analysis
6. Further develop market engagement approaches
7. Enhance and refine procurement processes
8. Scale up and codify the approach to social value and community benefits – which includes a recommendation to 'Produce a social value (community benefits) policy, with clear outcomes linked to wellbeing objectives'. This should be progressed as soon as possible as this will set the direction of travel.
9. Seek to collaborate with other anchors across the PSB.

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales 'Procuring Well-being in Wales'

In February 2021 the Commissioner published a report and recommendations for Welsh

Government and public bodies to take account of as part of the development of their procurement arrangements. All of the key issues and recommendations are included in the attached report which also outlines current Carmarthenshire Council activity and progress on the matters raised. There are three specific issues noted for public bodies which complement the findings of the CLES report and recommendations. These key issues for public bodies are:

1. Opportunities to deliver on all four dimensions of well-being are not being maximised, often due to lack of leadership and strategic approach that recognises the ‘power of purchase’.
2. The “procurement system” is too often leading to a focus on process and short-term cost rather than delivering wider outcomes over the long-term, and there is no consistent way of measuring the outcomes that can be achieved in line with the Act. There needs to be a shift to considering long term costs holistically, in line with the Act.
3. There is no mechanism for promoting effective collaboration for public bodies, particularly cross-sector to improve sharing, learning, capacity and skills.

Moving forward with implementing the CLES recommendations (if approved), we will need to take account of these issues and recommendations in our next steps to ensure we align with national direction of travel.

Way forward

If the report and recommendations are approved for further development it is suggested that a working group with representation from the Council’s procurement, economic development and corporate policy teams, with input and support from relevant Members and other relevant Council services is established to further develop this work. This will complement and work alongside a new PSB procurement and economic development network which is being proposed as part of the public sector food procurement project.

Any changes to current Council policy and regulations as a result of this further work would be reported back to the Executive Board for final decision. This work will closely align to the Council’s economic recovery plan.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

1. Community wealth building in Carmarthenshire – advancing progressive procurement (CLES)
2. Procuring Well-being in Wales: Key Issues & Recommendations

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration & Helen Pugh, Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	YES	NONE

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

There are a number of policy directives shaping this work, the key one being the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. Procurement is identified as one of the seven corporate areas that need to take account of and embed the sustainable development principle and ways of working in its approaches. Any future Council policy and guidance updates will need to fully take the Act into consideration.

There is currently a significant national and local focus on procurement policies and future approaches driven by a combination of factors including the urgency of COVID-19 economic recovery plans and a focus on social value, Brexit and resulting policy changes, as well as the focus on delivering net zero carbon commitments and the role procurement can play. These will all need to be taken account of as we develop the Council's approach.

The Council has also made a commitment to become net zero carbon by 2030. Procurement can play a key role in that work going forward and will need to be embedded into future approaches.

Legal

Further consideration must be given to legal implications of any proposed development of future ways of working and these will be considered as part of the on-going development work. We must ensure that all Procurement complies with various legislation, namely the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's internal Contract Procedure Rules. Any amendments to current Council Policies and Rules will be subject of a further formal decision by Executive Board.

Risk Management Issues

A progressive procurement 'localism' approach is a key focus of the Council's economic recovery plan. If the report recommendations are not progressed, it is extremely unlikely that the Council's recovery aspirations will be maximised, subject to various procurement legislation compliance.

Staffing Implications

There will be a need to ensure that the resourcing and capacity of the procurement and business support functions are commensurate with the Council's expectations

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration & Helen Pugh, Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A

2. Local Member(s) N/A

3. Community / Town Council N/A

4. Relevant Partners

Hywel Dda University Health Board, Coleg Sir Gâr and University of Wales Trinity Saint David are directly involved in the project, and findings will be reported to Carmarthenshire PSB

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations N/A

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**
YES

Cllr David Jenkins

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales Procuring for Well-being		<p>Cymraeg: https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/CYM-Section-20-Procurement-Review.pdf</p> <p>English: https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/ENG-Section-20-Procurement-Review.pdf</p>