

Commissioning, Socially Responsible Procurement



and

Contract Management Strategy

2021-2024

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg
This document is also available in Welsh



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

FOREWORD

The consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic have been truly profound for our economy, our society, and our communities. With this backdrop, together with the continued uncertainty of the long-term impacts of the UK's departure from the EU, we must ensure public sector expenditure delivers even greater value in contributing to positive social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes. Effective, sustainable procurement, and the successful delivery of contracts in respect of works, goods and services we all rely on has never been more important.

The ways in which local government organisations procure is evolving. Whereas previously there may have been a particular focus on looking towards procurement to deliver financial savings, there is now a shift away from the traditional 'price and quality evaluation' towards also ensuring that economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being outcomes are considered for each procurement process. Being a Local Authority will demand that we continue to be prudent with public funds and therefore look to achieve 'value for money', but also now seek to include broader factors that support delivery of sustainable outcomes that benefit the communities we serve.

The procurement duties contained within the Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill begin with an overarching duty on contracting authorities to seek to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their areas by carrying out public procurement in a socially responsible way. This means taking action to achieve the well-being goals and the fair work goal (together, the 'socially responsible procurement goals').

The expectations contained within the Draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill are consistent with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

This Strategy pulls together all of the diverse workstreams that filter through the Service, into one central place – to identify them, demonstrate how they link together and evidence how they will be delivered and monitored by a clear delivery plan.

This is a strategic document that sets the vision for the Council's commissioning, procurement, and contract management activities over the short, medium and long term. Its primary aims are to demonstrate how the Council:

- will deliver its social responsibilities as set out within the Draft Bill, support the delivery of the Council's Well-being priorities,
- contributes to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 seven national wellbeing goals when it procures.



Cllr Tina Leyshon

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Corporate Services



INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Council currently spends in the region of £232 million a year with private and third sector organisations on the goods, services and works needed to deliver public services. It is the Council's responsibility to manage this money efficiently and effectively in support of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities and in accordance with the Regulatory Framework including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended).

The purpose of this strategy is to set out how we are changing commissioning and procurement within the Council, to enhance our contract management arrangements and set out the vision and strategic direction necessary to deliver better outcomes for our communities.

This strategy is aimed at promoting effective commissioning, procurement and contract management across the whole organisation. The aims of this strategy are to:

Establish a clear strategic direction and priorities for change.

Clearly set out what we are going to do and why.

Identify three key themes to support the Council's delivery of its Corporate Plan 2020-2024, and the Council's ambitions to become net zero by 2030.

The strategy has been developed with a full appreciation of the complex regulatory framework within which commissioning and procurement operates. It also recognises that it is an area with high risks – with potentially significant impacts on service delivery, financial management and legal compliance, as well as the overall reputation of the Council.

Definitions

To be clear from the outset of what the Council means when discussing the three disciplines described within this strategy, the definitions are as follows:

- **COMMISSIONING...** is a set of activities by which the Council ensures that services are planned and organised to best meet the needs and demands of our communities and citizens to deliver appropriate and sustainable outcomes for now and for future generations.

It involves understanding the population need, best practice, local resources, assessing alternative delivery models and using these to plan, implement and review changes in services.

- **SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT...** is taking action when purchasing goods, services and works to achieve value for money in accordance with the principles of openness, transparency and equal treatment.

Key objectives include supporting the well-being goals, and the new fair work goal, in order to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. These matters must be considered throughout the procurement and contract management processes.

- **CONTRACT MANAGEMENT...** relates to the ongoing management and monitoring of contracts entered into with providers for works, goods or services.

Contract management focuses on ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions, delivery in line with the service specification and monitoring the delivery of defined outcomes as well as documenting and agreeing on any changes or amendments that may arise during its implementation, execution throughout the lifetime of the contract.

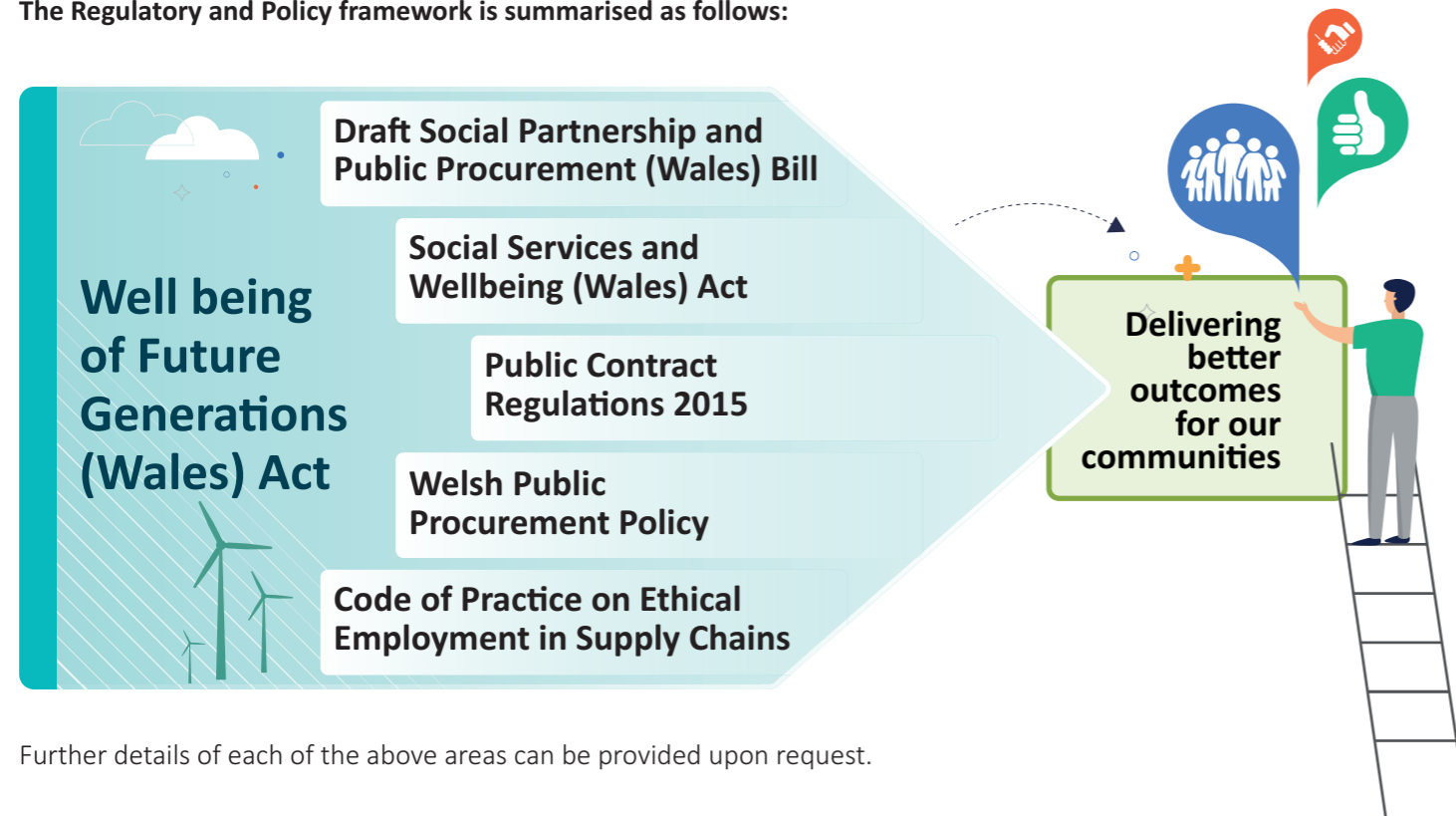


REGULATORY FRAMEWORK / THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

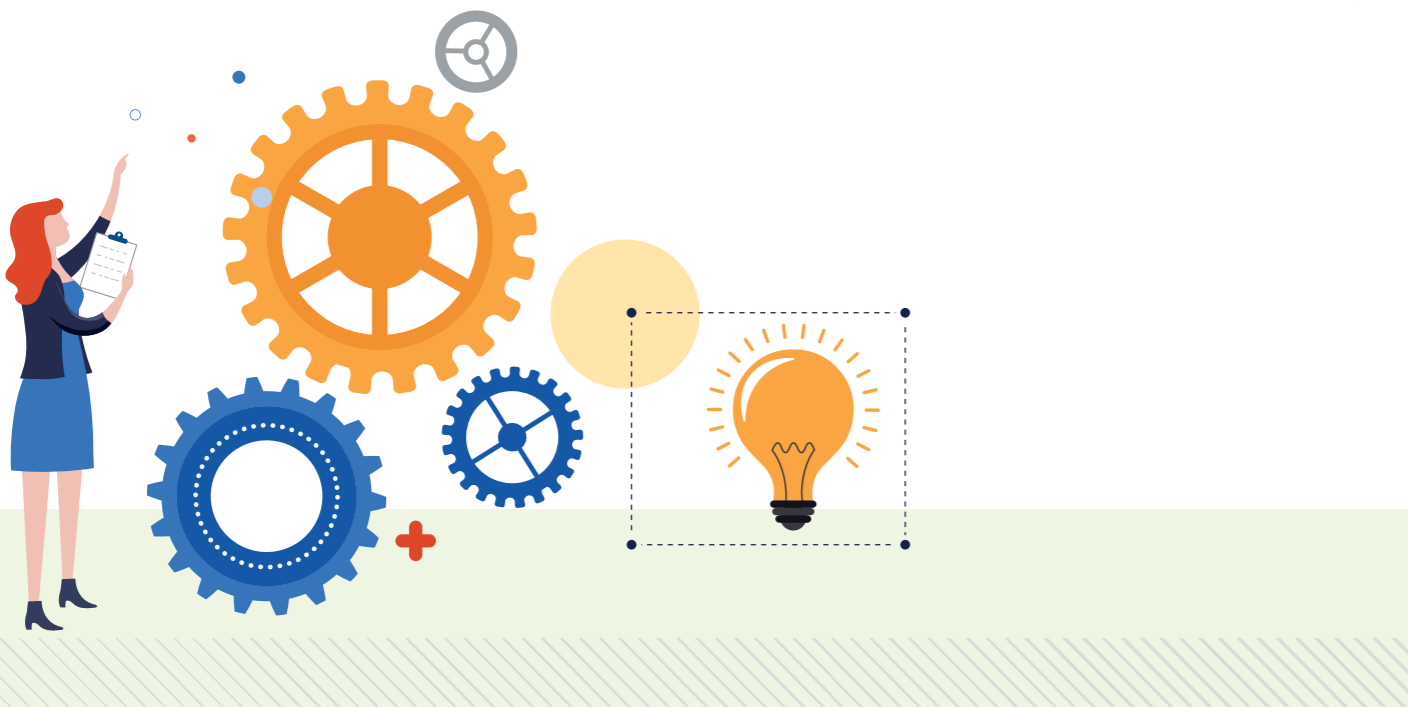
Commissioning and procuring in the public sector in Wales is structured around a regulatory and policy framework that aim to deliver outcomes that have been procured with openness, fairness and transparency that deliver the maximum economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being benefits to individuals and the local area.

To deliver these outcomes, it is essential that this Strategy combines all of these requirements into our key themes.

The Regulatory and Policy framework is summarised as follows:



Further details of each of the above areas can be provided upon request.



THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES & WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES



The Council agreed its new corporate priorities and a new Corporate Plan for 2020-24, 'Making a Difference' at its meeting on held on 4 March 2020. Council also agreed that these three corporate priorities would be the Council's Well-being objectives, which the Council is required to set by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The Council's agreed Vision, purpose and priorities are:

“ *For Rhondda Cynon Taf to be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy, and prosperous.* ”

The Council's purpose and the reason why it exists is:

“ *To provide strong community leadership and create the environment for people and businesses to be independent, healthy and prosperous.* ”

Ensuring
PEOPLE
are
independent,
healthy,
and successful.

Creating
PLACES
where people are
proud to live,
work, and play.

Enabling
PROSPERITY
creating the opportunity
for people & businesses to
be innovative,
be entrepreneurial
and fulfil their
potential & prosper.

In addition to setting out the 3 Priorities of People, Places and Prosperity, the Corporate Plan identifies one of the biggest challenges the Council faces:

“ *Our greatest challenge will be to deliver the Council's commitment to being “A netzero Green House Gas Council by 2030” which is 20 years earlier than the recommendation of the UK Committee on Climate Change. This is a challenge we are taking seriously, and we look forward to receiving the support from all local residents and businesses in working together to change the way we live our lives to achieve this aim.* ”

THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES & WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES (continued)

How the procurement service will support delivery of the council's corporate plan

The following strategic themes have been put in place with the aim of setting out a framework that will enable a co-ordinated approach to delivering the work of the Procurement Service:

THEME

1

Ensuring we have effective governance arrangements in place that support robust commissioning and procurement decisions:

- Reviewing our standard documents to ensure they are fit for purpose and address key/current priorities.
- Ensure arrangements are embedded to implement the requirements in respect of Prescribed Contracts.
- Ensuring that the Welsh language continues to be applied throughout our processes.
- Ensure our data adds value to the procurement process.
- Put in place monitoring arrangements whereby outcomes are tracked, monitored, and reported efficiently.
 - Build the arrangements that will need to be in place to deliver an annual report that complies with the requirements placed upon us by the draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement Bill.
- Review our Internet and Intranet content to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- Ensure that the Contract Procedure Rules are reviewed and updated regularly and complied with across the organisation.
- Learning and development of Procurement staff and wider staff across the Council to ensure upskilling in commercial awareness and understanding and implementing new policies, procedures and regulations.

THEME

2

Putting in place socially responsible procurement activities and processes that will help the Council to:

- Taking action to reduce the Council's carbon footprint associated with procured goods and services.
- Reducing the Council's use of single use plastics.
- Support the Council's initiative to have in place a fleet of Ultra Low Emitting Vehicles (ULEV's).
- Procuring locally.
- Embed ethical and fair work arrangements into our contracting processes and supply chains.
- Develop arrangements whereby the social value obtained from each contracting arrangement is maximised.

THEME

3

For all relevant contracts, ensuring that suppliers are held to account by putting in place robust contract management arrangements, where:

- Performance is monitored, tracked and reported against the intended outcomes of the contract.
- Arrangements are in place whereby escalations in respect of performance and contract compliance can be dealt with in a fair and transparent manner.
- Contracts and contract management activities are recorded on a centrally managed system, where performance and outcomes can be tracked.

It is the intention that these strategic themes will demonstrate the alignment between the work that we deliver to the achievement of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being outcomes for the local community – benefits that will be delivered in the short, medium and long term.

The strategic themes of this strategy aim to support the Council's delivery of its Corporate Plan 2020-2024, and the Council's ambitions to become net zero by 2030.

In support of delivering the strategic themes of this Strategy, a delivery plan has been developed that sets out what will be achieved and by when.

MONITORING & REPORTING



Our progress in respect of implementing the strategic themes will be monitored against the delivery plan.

In accordance with the requirement placed upon us by the DRAFT Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill, we will publish an annual report that will summarise the work delivered for each financial year.

The report will be structured around:

- Giving a summary of the work delivered during the year.
- Identifying the changes made within our governance arrangements that help deliver consistency for the service and enable efficient and effective monitoring and reporting.
- Our progress against delivering our strategic themes.
- Demonstrate how the work delivered has contributed to the principle of achieving socially responsible public procurement (with examples that are linked to the Council's well-being objectives).
- A summary of the procurements during the year that led to the award of a Prescribed contract.
- Looking forwards – setting out what is to come.

This strategy will be reviewed at least annually and should revisions be required these will be actioned with a revised copy being published on our website as soon as reasonably practicable.



Contact Details

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Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg
You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh

