

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION

3 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ASSETS

SERVICE LEVEL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – PROVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL & SOCIAL VALUE MEASUREMENT

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To review the Shared Procurement Service progress to enable a decision to extend the current Service Level Partnership Agreement for the provision of procurement services directly with Essex County Council and to introduce the preferred Social Value Measurement, **Themes, Outcomes and Measures** ('National TOMs') Framework for further exploration on developing the TOMs through the emerging corporate plan priorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Essex County Council & Tendring District Council - provision of procurement services

The partnership between Tendring District Council (TDC) and Essex County Council (ECC) began on 1st October 2021. Since that point the team has worked on 62 procurements, of which 38 (19 in 2021-22 and 19 in 2022/23) have been awarded or awaiting governance approval to award and 24 that are ongoing. In addition to the above, the shared procurement resource has provided advice and support to colleagues across the Council on how to source a wide range of goods and services. The joint team has embedded a new robust approach to procurement practice with improved documentation, using the Proactis e-sourcing tool to ensure visibility of procurement opportunities and robust adoption of procurement process and evaluation principles. Procurement training has been and continues to be rolled across the organisation and a new approach to category management has begun to identify key areas of spend where enhanced value for money could be achieved.

How many active projects there currently are to demonstrate the active work:

There has been a significant increase in operational procurements, some of which had not previously been identified within the Procure Project Pipeline and Forward Plan. This in turn has meant that resource has had to be diverted to complete these procurements, detracting from the strategic planning and overview required to identify resource, link up opportunities and potential cost savings across the organisation.

Due to the success of the partnership with TDC and ECCs, it has proved necessary to review funding of the additional procurement resource previously identified, due to the increase in using the services and further compliance. Funding was allocated from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) in a recent urgent decision by the Leader published on 27th October 2023 to enable additional capacity to be secured via the existing procurement arrangements with ECC to support delivery of a range of important HRA activities. The existing procurement capacity

supports both the General Fund (GF) and HRA activities, although previously funding contributions were only being made by the GF.

Joint Shared Procurement Partnership – now known as the Essex Procurement Partnership (EPP):

In March 2023, Cabinet approved (minute no. 137) TDC forming part of a wider partnership of Councils to explore the Shared Procurement Service for parts of Essex. The Portfolio Holder for Assets being responsible for procurement, represents the Council at a recently formed Member Advisory Group (MAG), who met on 26th September 2023.

The MAG consists of an elected member from each Local Authority Partner, providing member oversight of the Essex Procurement Partnership (EPP) acting as both a critical friend and champion of the partnership. The MAG is an advisory group and therefore decision-making powers are not devolved from each Partner Authority.

The MAG will hold responsibility for reviewing the performance of the partnership, providing insight and challenge to the delivery by EPP of its core objectives over the life of the partnership. The core objectives of EPP, in priority order, are as follows:

- **To understand contract liquidity** – Through development of a clear contract register and forward plan enabling partners to understand third party commitments, providing transparency in line with legal requirements.
- **Undertake sourcing activity** – Undertake all procurement for the member authorities above £50k, meeting legal obligations and delivering value for money.
- **Introduce category management** – Identifying key categories of spend across member authorities and undertaking review of this spend to identify collaborative procurement and savings opportunities.
- **Create frameworks** – Creating robust and effective frameworks to support partners in delivery of services whilst also creating income opportunities through the introduction of rebates.
- **Develop the professionalism of procurement in each partner** – Undertake an assessment of procurement maturity and support in developing this level of maturity in line with the National Procurement Strategy.
- **Grow procurement and market knowledge** – Provide business partners and a supporting procurement team with the right knowledge and capabilities to deliver an effective and professional sourcing service to each member.
- **Support robust contract management** – Introduce a new contract management approach for partner authorities to embed with guidance to enable consistent and effective management of contracts and suppliers across partners.
- **Develop social value** – Introduce a common approach to social value/ climate agenda to sourcing activity for members.

The MAG will work closely with the Strategic Officer Group (SOG) with information flows between the two Groups enabled by senior officers, TDC is represented on the SOG by the Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer. The SOG holds responsibility to:

- Set the strategic direction of the partnership
- Agree the priorities of the shared service
- Monitor performance of the partnership

Partnership Agreement for the Shared Procurement Service (now known as EPP);

At its meeting in March, Cabinet requested the Portfolio Holder to review the current Shared Procurement Service progress prior to any decision at the expiration of the existing Service Level Agreement with Essex County Council. The SLA with TDC and ECC expired on 1st October 2023, however notice to cease the arrangement was not served as required, and the Portfolio Holder has been involved within the earlier review and supported the approach to extending the existing arrangement with ECC. It is necessary to highlight the current position of the Partnership Agreement as a fundamental element of the review undertaken.

The Partner Local Authorities have agreed principles to being members of the EPP focusing on providing the current procurement offer to existing and joining members. One off support to other authorities will not be offered until this offer is embedded and stable. To be termed a Partnership Member the Local Authority will:

- a) Sign up to the partnership agreement which will include these principles and the Procurement Offer and criteria around prioritisation of projects
- b) Commit resource (money/ people) to sit within the structure of the shared service and work across the member organisations as directed by the Officer Operational Group
- c) Share spend / contract data and commit to identify and deliver shared sourcing activity to the benefit of the Essex resident
- d) All procurement activity is undertaken by the Shared Procurement Service, with all procurement resource to sit within the service (consideration being given by ECC to how best to integrate with the Shared Procurement Service determined by category, spend and complexity)
- e) Commit to commonality of documentation where possible
- f) Commit to active participation in each group and by staff working with the Shared Procurement Service as if working with internal service.

The SOG have reviewed a draft Partnership Agreement and provided feedback on some elements, the host authority for the partnership has yet to be determined. Braintree District Council's legal services have reviewed the draft partnership agreement and a further draft will be produced shortly. The resource allocation (financial and staffing) from individual Partners requires further consideration proportionate to the inputs and outcomes.

Although, the delivery model of the EPP still needs to be finalised, considerable progress has been made but even at an early stage a number of benefits to Tendring District Council have been identified and are progressing, the detail of which are set out in the body of the report. At the current time, the recommendation is to agree a further extension of the SLA with ECC until 31st March 2024 to allow the partnership agreement to be completed.

TDC had already identified a number of specific continuous improvement activities to be delivered, these had been considered against the offer of a wider partnership sharing resource and are now incorporated into the EPP Prioritised Objectives. These include developing a common Procurement Strategy, review of Procurement Procedure Rules, ensuring practices are up to date with legislation, national guidance and best practice, contract management skills; and production of a Social Value Policy and evaluation approach.

Previously, at its meeting in March 23, Cabinet agreed to reinvest £45,000 funding from an ongoing associated vacancy (due to being unable to recruit) contributing to the shared procurement service for 2023/24, to develop and deliver the above activities. Unfortunately, ECC was also unable to recruit to a fixed term post at this level, and consequently, development opportunities have been limited, therefore, additional funding was necessary to increase the grade of the post and allow the post to be permanent (to be recruited by ECC). Due to the fact that the current procurement service arrangements and functions already support delivery of HRA activities, additional funding from the HRA to increase capacity has recently been agreed via a separate decision. This capacity will enable the existing procurement resource to dedicate some time to progress against the identified Prioritised Objectives, in particular the further development of a dedicated Social Value Policy for Procurement Purposes, to set out how the Council wishes to achieve the social, economic and environmental strands through its commissioning. Development of a number of strategic documentation will be applied to both GF and HRA activity for the Council.

When developing a Social Value Policy it is necessary to consider how specifications will comply, tenders are evaluated for procurement purposes and outputs are measured and monitored. It is currently being suggested to adopt the Social Value Measurement, '**Themes, Outcomes and Measures**' ('National TOMs') Framework, providing a tested, clear and consistent approach to social value measurement, which can be supported by ECC who have already implemented this approach. Social Value can apply with any value of contract, however, there is an operational cost to preparing and scoring an evaluation model in addition to contract management, recording and measuring outcomes, therefore, it is considered proportionate to suggest social value would only be included when procuring a contract with a value of over £100,000. This threshold can be monitored over time with the Policy being altered as necessary. It is proposed the EPP would set up a combined **TOM** method of classifying and evaluating Social Value, agreeing a common set of priorities, based on the members' Corporate Objectives. Work done on this as part of the Anchors work will be reviewed and an All Member Briefing will be delivered on this subject prior to any further decisions.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Assets:

- (a) notes the outcome of the review and progress of the existing partnership arrangement with Essex County Council for the delivery of procurement functions under the Service Level Agreement and Shared Procurement Service for parts of Essex;**
- (b) agrees to extend the existing Service Level Agreement with Essex County Council for a further 6 months to allow the Partnership Agreement to be completed;**
- (c) supports the direction of the Essex Procurement Partnership and the Core Objectives identified;**

- (d) instructs officers to ensure the Council's Contract Register and Procurement Project Pipeline is kept up to date to ensure Tendring District Council matters can be included within the Shared Service prioritisation; and recommend 8 weeks turnaround to provide data for existing contracts and contract spend across the organisation; and
- (e) endorses the work identified for a joint TOMs approach to Social Value for procurement purposes, for further development against the Council's Corporate Plan, with a report being presented at a later Cabinet.

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

The current SLA with ECC for the provision of procurement services has been extremely positive for TDC, enabling a number of procurement activities to be undertaken ensuring compliance and improved documentation. Whilst the Councils have worked collaboratively in pooling resources delivering day-to-day key procurement activities, both Councils still support the wider Partnership Approach for the Essex Procurement Partnership to maximise the objectives and benefits. Therefore, the objective remains to extend the SLA to enable the wider Partnership Agreement to develop further.

TDC is continuing to provide a client side contact to manage the existing partnership agreement (SLA) with ECC.

Social value considerations have been a requirement since 2012 however, policies are emerging nationally on revised approaches for procurement strengthening the opportunities to be achieved.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Alternative options considered are:

- **Alternative Option 1:**

The Council could simply extend the existing partnership agreement (SLA) with ECC beyond 6 months, as this will continue to provide a resilient procurement service. However, this is not considered as attractive as the recommended option as it does not enable TDC to help inform the future structure and direction of the wider EPP. The Council would also not be able to benefit from any shared procurement income, which may be generated in the future.

The wider EPP will deliver the following benefits to TDC:

- Resilience - with a larger team across both organisations that is able to meet the fluctuations in demand for the service;
- Expertise - with the EPH knowledge of district spend areas and the recognised expertise of ECC's procurement team enabling better constructed procurements and greater value for money;
- Collaborative savings – through closer working and shared understanding of

forward plans, the partnership will be better able to identify shared procurement and contract management opportunities removing duplication of resource time and increasing the opportunity for economies of scale;

- Reduction of duplication in the delivery of support services such as policy creation and training, releasing time for staff to focus on value-add procurement activity.
- **Alternative Option 2:**
Beyond October 2023, TDC could undertake procurement activity on its own and the Council would have independent control over procurement resource and its use. Recruitment of procurement resource is difficult as has been demonstrated through a recent process, even at ECC level, with a competitive procurement resource market. This option would also not provide the additional benefits of resilience, access to wider expertise and collaborative savings highlighted above. The SLA arrangement has enabled a team member at ECC to be dedicated in providing a procurement service to Tendring District Council and has been regarded as part of Tendring District Council, working with services across the Council in a 'one team' approach. Positive feedback has been received on the existing arrangements and the procurement support function has improved on previous arrangements.
- **Alternative Option 3:**
Do not extend the SLA with ECC and enter the Partnership Agreement directly with EPP. The Partnership Agreement is not quite ready to be completed, with the host authority to be determined, as well as funding models, therefore this would not provide TDC with an immediate procurement service and would result in a break in delivery of the function. ECC resources are currently undertaking the procurement services on behalf of TDC and are committed to do so until such time as the EPP arrangements are finalised.

Alternative Option on TOMs

Incorporating social value as part of quality and creating a bespoke quality only approach to assessment:

Disadvantages are reporting will be more difficult vs. TOM's approach with greater difficulty in assigning a value for communication e.g. members will not be able to say the Council has delivered £x social value. Evaluation would be purely subjective although robust methodology could mitigate this, there may be greater difficulties in defending a bespoke approach. Difficult to compare performance with other organisations or benchmarks, understanding what good looks like. Could be greater uncertainty for businesses, with qualitative assessments only. Cost to develop a different approach, rather than adopting a recognised methodology

Whereas, adopting the Themes and Outcome Measures (TOMs) approach, provides a consistent approach to measuring and reporting and allows for continuous improvement. The model provides a robust, transparent and defensible solution for assessing and awarding tenders and enables organisations to compare their own performance by sector and industry benchmarks and understand what good looks like. The preferred approach reduces the uncertainty surrounding social value measurement for businesses, allowing them to make informed decisions based on robust quantitative assessments and hence embed social value into their corporate strategies through engaging with a recognised and widely adopted approach to social value measurement across local government. Finally, ECC have already

adopted this type of model and therefore there is good understanding and support for implementation.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Shared Procurement Service will support the delivery of the Strong Finances and Governance workstream, in particular supporting a balanced budget through

- An effective approach to procurement activity, delivering value for money
- An efficient resource model
- A robust approach to spend analysis and contract management

The emerging Corporate Plan 'Our Vision', which has recently been the subject of consultation with the public, businesses and partners, includes the theme 'Financial Sustainability and Openness'. The supporting text for this theme, states to continue to deliver effective services and get things done we must look after the public purse. The procurement function enables the Council to ensure its money is being spent in an open and transparent manner and in compliance with the Procurement Procedure Rules, which apply to the procurement of ALL goods, works or services, as set out in Part 5 of the Constitution (see below).

The way Anchor Organisations procure goods and services and work with their supply chain can have far reaching benefits on local communities, from creating employment opportunities, to raising aspirations and local skills, to improving the local environment. Procurement is frequently the starting point for embedding Social Value, ensuring every pound spent generates additional value. Anchor Organisations have signed up to the following:

- Progressive and Responsible Procurement - Develop policy and tendering processes to assess, monitor and deliver social value.
- Meet the Buyers - Develop close working relationships with local providers and suppliers in the community.
- Build the Voluntary Sector - Make explicit requirements to work with and resource the voluntary sector in contracts.

The National Procurement Policy Statement is that all contracting authorities should consider the three national strategic priorities being:

- Social Value
- Commercial and procurement delivery
- Skills and capability for procurement

For Social Value, all contracting authorities should consider the following national priority outcomes alongside any additional local priorities in their procurement activities:

- Creating new businesses, new jobs and new skills;
- Tackling climate change and reducing waste; and
- Improving supplier diversity, innovation and resilience.

The national priority outcomes should be considered alongside any additional local priorities and outcomes for the public benefit, where it is relevant to the subject matter of the contract

and it is proportionate to do so.

The Government's Social Value Model Themes are:

- Covid-19 Recovery
- Tackling economic inequality
- Tackling climate change
- Equal opportunity
- Well-being

The Government Social Value Model demonstrates some form of questions that could be tailored to the social value goals.

The national TOMs framework themes are:

- Jobs
- Growth
- Social
- Environment
- Innovation

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

No formal consultation or engagement has taken place for the purposes of this decision.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	☐ Significant effect on two or more wards ☐ Involves £100,000 expenditure/income ☐ Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	

PART 5 CONSTITUTION - PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE RULES

Before undertaking any procurement, the General Requirements of the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules state (Part 5.58-89) that Departments should satisfy themselves that:

Before undertaking any procurement, Departments should satisfy themselves that:

- The works, goods or services are required and a need can be demonstrated
- There are no reasonable alternatives e.g. sharing or utilising spare capacity/inventories elsewhere within the Council
- **Where relevant, they have considered the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and have recorded/evidenced the outcomes against the associated requirements:-**
 - how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and

environmental well-being of the relevant area

- **how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement**

Regulation 67 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 - Contract award criteria

- (1)** *Contracting authorities shall base the award of public contracts on the most economically advantageous tender assessed from the point of view of the contracting authority.*
- (2)** *That tender shall be identified on the basis of the price or cost, using a cost-effectiveness approach, such as life-cycle costing in accordance with regulation 68, and may include the best price-quality ratio, which shall be assessed on the basis of criteria, such as qualitative, environmental and/or social aspects, linked to the subject-matter of the public contract in question.*

Regulation 70 - Conditions for performance of contract

- (1)** *Contracting authorities may lay down special conditions relating to the performance of a contract, provided that they are:*
 - (a) linked to the subject-matter of the contract within the meaning of regulation 67(5); and*
 - (b) indicated in the call for competition or in the procurement documents*
- (2)** *Those conditions may include economic, innovation-related, environmental, social or employment-related considerations.*

Requirement for award criteria and contract conditions to link to the subject-matter of the contract is a notable constraint on authorities' ability to use procurement to drive social value objectives. **Regulation 65(5)** *Award criteria shall be considered to be linked to the subject-matter of the contract where they relate to the works/ supplies/services to be provided in any respect and at any stage of their life cycle, including factors involved in—*

- (a) the specific process of production, provision or trading of those works, supplies or services, or*
- (b) a specific process for another stage of their life cycle, even where those factors do not form part of their material substance.*

The National Procurement Policy Statement issued in 2021 sets out the strategic priorities for public procurement and how contracting authorities considers the following national priority outcomes alongside any additional local priorities in their procurement activities:

- creating new businesses, new jobs and new skills;
- tackling climate change and reducing waste, and
- improving supplier diversity, innovation and resilience.

The Local Government Association developed a toolkit in 2022, to support councils to set objectives in relation to their maturity levels in each of the key areas of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England, and to assess their progress against those objectives.

☐	The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:
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The Monitoring Officer is the author of this report.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the short extension of the SLA with Essex County Council is included within the existing procurement service budget.

The SLA states TDC will pay a basic fee of £60,000 per annum to ECC for the Services. This fee will fund resource employed by ECC to deliver the Key Procurement Activities as set out in the Schedule to the agreement and enable TDC access to increased knowledge through the wider ECC in-house team. A further allocation of funding of £60,000 has also now been secured (via a separate decision) from the HRA for additional ECC capacity to support the timely delivery of various HRA activities and schemes.

During the term of this Agreement ECC may request additional contributions from TDC for access to further resources required to under specific procurement functions and projects to be discussed and agreed in advance. ECC will provide a quote to TDC for any additional project-based support on their estimate of the resources required to provide additional services pursuant with Schedule 2 of the Agreement.

In the event any variations are agreed which result in an increase to charges, ECC will invoice TDC after the variation has been made and charge agreed. Once the decision is made to extend the SLA until March 2024 (and the call-in period has expired) a formal variation can be agreed at Officer level to vary the agreement to increase the capacity. The previous decision of Cabinet to allocate £45,000 from vacancies within the procurement service to fund additional resource was not implemented because ECC were unable to recruit a fixed term post at this level, therefore this funding will be left within the service and a further staffing restructure is being considered.

To ensure that the ECC SLA can deliver against the Council's priorities, its Contracts Register needs to be updated and completed, improving internal data and records is necessary. Spend analysis and further development of the procurement project pipeline (forward plan) is ongoing but still not adequate for resource management, Value For Money assessments and ensuring maximum compliance.

The Local Government Association developed a toolkit to support councils to set objectives in relation to their maturity levels in each of the key areas of the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in 2022, and to assess their progress against those objectives. Essex County Council on behalf of Tendring District Council has completed this self-assessment and shared the results with the Portfolio Holder in July 2023. There are three standards and against each of the descriptors, 11 were assessed as 'mature', 34 'developing' and 22 'minimum'. The main categories assessed a minimum were in relation to social value, creating commercial opportunities, contract management and engaging with SMEs and the Voluntary Sector. These areas are covered within the objective of the wider EPP and will be addressed through further development and collaboration on the priority objectives, as identified. 45 standards being assessed as mature or developing demonstrates the progress the joint working with TDC & ECC has achieved to date.

Paragraph 2.3 of the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules set out in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution requires alternative delivery options for whole or part of services to be achieved in accordance with the Council's Procurement Strategy. The Strategy expressly refers to '*Our Partners in Procurement*' and that the Council will seek to work with a number of partners to

maximise any procurement opportunities and provide best practice. This includes other public bodies and shared services. Because the in-house procurement service has 100% vacancies, there were no employment issues to address and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 permit public sector shared service and collaboration arrangements within certain criteria, which are observed in any Service Level Agreement arrangement. The Council's Procurement Procedure Rules are observed in any bids or tender exercises managed by ECC on behalf of TDC.

☐ **The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:**

Although there are no additional comments over and above those set out elsewhere in this report, it is worth highlighting that the positive partnership experience with ECC to date, along with the developing EPP approach, will undoubtedly support the Council in demonstrating value for money in its use of resources going forward.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY

The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:

A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The concept of a wider Shared Procurement Service across Councils within Essex builds upon existing Service Level Agreement to ensure the Council can perform a procurement function. However, the Partnership Agreement for the wider service needs to be completed before transferring across from the existing SLA to ensure there is no break in the delivery of the service.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	Currently, and until there the review is undertaken on adopting any jointly agreed strategy, rules and procures, all procurement activity will continue to be in accordance with Tendring District Council's Procurement Procedure Rules, as contained with Part 5 of the Constitution.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	The Executive Summary of this report provides how the Shared Procurement Service can deliver the following benefits: • Resilience - with a larger team across both organisations that is able to meet the fluctuations in demand for the service; • Expertise - with the Essex Procurement Hub knowledge of district spend areas and the recognised expertise of ECC's procurement team enabling better constructed procurements and greater value for money; • Collaborative savings – through closer

	working and shared understanding of forward plans, the partnership will be better able to identify shared procurement and contract management opportunities removing duplication of resource time and increasing the opportunity for economies of scale; and • Reduction of duplication.
MILESTONES AND DELIVERY	
1st October 2023 – expiry of existing SLA with ECC for procurement services, currently being continued on a good will basis, until the extension is formally agreed. Portfolio Holder has indicated his support for the decision following discussions on the proposals and a review of activity. Prior to 31st December 2023 – agree Partnership Agreement for EPP 31st December 2023 – serve notice to terminate SLA with ECC or extend depending upon progress with EPP.	
ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION	
There is a risk that with a wider Essex Procurement Partnership, Tendring District Council's procurement activity is reduced in prioritisation however, this is mitigated through the provision of a development procurement project pipeline for Tendring and the existing service level agreement with ECC. Unfortunately, services are not providing early data to feed into the project pipeline and this could impact on prioritisation going forward. Should Tendring decide not to join the Shared Procurement Service, it would be unable to help shape the future delivery and lose opportunities of closer working between Councils and maximising collaborative spending.	
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed alongside the development of the Partnership Agreement and any revised strategies, policies and procedures through the share service.	
SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS	
The Social Value considerations are addressed elsewhere in the report.	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030	
Procurement is an important tool in tackling climate change. As part of the development of the procurement strategy and policies and procedures consideration will be given to how to incorporate environmental considerations in to the procurement process. Access to knowledge on climate change as it relates to procurement will be available from the wider ECC team. National Procurement Policy Statement issued in 2021 sets out the	

strategic priorities for public procurement and how contracting authorities considers the following national priority outcomes alongside any additional local priorities in their procurement activities, including tackling climate change and reducing waste.

OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder

Health Inequalities

There are no implications from the subject matter of this report, however each project and new procurement opportunity will consider these implications through the individual decision making.

Area or Ward affected

None

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

17th September 2021, Cabinet Minute. No. 42 ((2) (c) and (d).

24th August 2022, Officer Decision Essex County Council Service Level Agreement with Tendring District Council.

17th March 2023, Cabinet Minute No. 137

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

APPENDICES

None

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