

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Corporate Services Committee - 28 June 2006

Subject : Corporate Procurement Strategy

1. Purpose:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress to date of the Corporate Procurement Strategy and related developments.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Procurement Strategy was approved by the Corporate Services Committee on the 26 October 2005.
- 2.2 The Review of Public Procurement in Scotland Report and recommendations by John F. McClelland was published in March 2006.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 Substantial progress has been made in regard to the strategic objectives detailed within the Corporate Procurement Strategy, these include the:
- Establishment of a Corporate Procurement Unit
 - Recruitment of staff with appropriate reporting links
 - Development of a training programme
 - Introduction of purchasing cards
 - Formation of a Council Procurement Forum with representatives from all departments
 - Development of collaborative procurement with other councils
 - Receipt of benefit tracking software
- 3.2 The Council anticipate efficiencies arising from improved procurement in the region of £289k within the 2006/07 budget, with a significantly higher figure anticipated for 2007/08.

- 3.3** The McClelland Review of Public Procurement in Scotland includes a total of 82 recommendations and, for the Council to obtain the minimum level of compliance, a number of actions require to be completed to achieve this, these include:
- the recommended adoption of the eProcurementScotland (ePS) electronic procurement software platform. The Council has yet formally to consider this recommendation;
 - assessment as to the suitability of the benefits tracking software, and if acceptable deploy accordingly;
 - the adoption of a range of performance indicators. These differ from those detailed within the Corporate Procurement Strategy;
 - that procurement officers, those with formal delegated authority, should be the only staff that can enter into contractual commitments on behalf of the Council.
- 3.4** A requirement of the McClelland Review of Public Procurement in Scotland is that each Council will formally sign a compliance certificate indicating that it complies with appropriate minimum standards of governance, policy and practice in respect of its procurement activity. This compliance certificate is to be signed by 30 June 2006, if the Council is satisfied that it has appropriate plans in place to meet these minimum standards by March 2007.
- 3.5** The Corporate Procurement Strategy may need to be revised in line with the recommendations of the McClelland Review of Public Procurement in Scotland.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** Additional efficiencies as highlighted in para 3.2

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** Substantial progress has been made in line with the Corporate Procurement Strategy to date and this progress should continue to be maintained.
- 6.2** A review of the Corporate Procurement Strategy is required and revision, if necessary, to ensure that the Council complies with the appropriate minimum standards of governance, policy and practice in respect of its procurement activity by March 2007.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members note the progress made to date and approve the review of the Corporate Procurement Strategy.

Tim Huntingford
Chief Executive

Person to Contact: Ian Hutchison, Corporate Procurement Team Leader,
Garshake Road.
Telephone (01389) 737664
E-mail: ian.hutchison2@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Background Papers: Corporate Procurement Strategy
McClelland Review of Public Procurement in Scotland
(The McClelland review can be accessed through the Council Intranet site. Go to Chief Executive's Department and it is located under Corporate Procurement Section)

Wards Affected: No wards affected