



Procurement Policy and Strategy

2022/23 to 2026/27

Executive Summary

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's ("the Council") Procurement Policy promotes effective and sustainable procurement throughout the Council. Good procurement is critical to obtaining real improvements in service cost and quality. It gives us the ability to manage resources to best effect and to apply them where they are needed.

Policy Objectives/Regulation

Welsh Policy Statement

Rebecca Evans MS (then) Minister for Finance and Trefnydd updated the Welsh Government Policy Statement in March 2021. "The Wales Procurement Policy Statement (WPPS) sets the strategic vision for public sector procurement in Wales. It will help to define our progress against the well-being goals being pursued for future generations putting the Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 at the heart of all procurement decisions supporting us to achieve the 'Wales we want'."

The vision is:

Welsh public sector procurement is a powerful lever with ability to affect sustained change to achieve social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes for the well-being of Wales.

Vale of Glamorgan Procurement Policy

The overarching aim is that all procurement decisions through the lens of the Well-being of Future Generations Act – by applying the Five Ways of Working, considering our well-being objectives and how we can maximise contribution to the seven well-being goals

[Future Generations \(futuregenerations2020.wales\)](https://futuregenerations2020.wales)

There are then seven key objectives:

1. Ensuring legal compliance and robust and transparent governance
2. Contributing to the Council's aim to be a Carbon-Neutral Council by 2030
3. Improving Fair Work practices adopted by suppliers
4. Making procurement spend more accessible to local small businesses and third sector
5. Increasing community benefits and social value delivered by suppliers
6. Promoting innovative and best practice solutions
7. Securing value for money and managing demand

Strategy

This policy includes a framework for minimum, expected and preferred standards for specific areas in sustainable and ethical procurement. This framework details what a supplier should do as a minimum when seeking to work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The framework also includes enhanced standards, which are in addition to and go beyond these minimum requirements, and preferred standards which (cumulatively with minimum and enhanced standards) are considered best practice. The Council encourages its suppliers and those bidding for contracts to consider working towards enhanced and preferred standards to add value and weight to their tenders.

Social Value

Social Value means delivering wider economic, social and environmental benefits over and above the provision of core contract requirements. Achieving additional social value through procurement leads to greater value for money, improving outcomes for residents while generating long-term savings

The Council encourages all organisations seeking to work with it to assist in the delivery of the Council Plan priorities, in a way that is proportionate and relevant to the size of the contract and the type of contract being delivered.

The Council has initially adopted the Welsh Government's TOMs (Themes, Outputs, Measures) framework for delivering social value but will tailor these to the more specific needs of the Vale of Glamorgan over time. These are attached at Appendix A.

Ethical Procurement

Ethical procurement is a wide ranging element of the Strategy covering: Labour & Employment, Real Living Wage, Equality & Diversity, Prompt Payments through the Supply Chain, Modern Slavery, Prevention of Corruption and Sustainable Food. They are individually set out to highlight their importance.

- i. Labour & Employment - freedom of employment, safe working conditions and regular employment as a minimum with an expectation that zero hours contracts are avoided.

- ii. Real Living Wage - the Council pays its workforce the Real Living Wage and has committed to pay this through contract in the social care sector. It aims to deliver this as much as its supplier base as possible.
- iii. Equality & Diversity – suppliers comply with Equality Act 2010 obligations and have policies which are monitored and ideally providing training and promote through their own supply chains too.
- iv. Prompt Payments through the Supply Chain – 30 days minimum and preferably within 10 days for MSMEs.
- v. Modern Slavery – commitment to no modern slavery within supply chains.
- vi. Prevention of Corruption – suppliers adhere to the Council’s Whistleblowing, anti Money Laundering, Anti Bribery & Corruption and Tax Evasion policies.
- vii. Sustainable Food – food standards are met and food from outside the UK and EU is sustainably sourced.

Economy & Employment

As a major procurer in the county, the Vale of Glamorgan Council recognises the need to leverage its purchasing power to support residents to secure good employment and to help local businesses and voluntary and community organisations to thrive.

Where legislation and regulation allow, the Vale of Glamorgan Council will maximise all opportunities to prioritise local organisations and MSMEs and VCSEs within procurement activity.

As a commissioner, the Vale of Glamorgan Council will work with MSMEs and VCSEs to:

- Break down larger contracts into ‘lots’, where feasible, promote opportunities for MSMEs and VCSEs to bid for work by.
- Reserve below threshold procurement for MSMEs/VCSEs where possible.
- Carry out pre-market engagement including market warming events.
- Use social value to prioritise local skills and employment and support for the local economy.

As a local authority we will:

- Support local voluntary and community sector organisations to complete applications for grants and funding.
- Keep local voluntary and community sector organisations updated about relevant funding information.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is working closely with Welsh Government, the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) (<https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/about-ccr/>), and the training and skills sector providers at both local and regional levels to build a strong economy where our business and people are equipped to embrace the future.

The Council will expect suppliers to be engaging with local skills providers, making use of apprenticeship opportunities and commitment to a proportion of their workforce coming from the Vale of Glamorgan.

Climate Action

In July 2019 the Vale of Glamorgan Council joined with Welsh Government and other councils across the UK in declaring a global 'climate emergency' in response to the findings of the IPCC 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C' (October 2018). The Council made a commitment to:

Reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero before the Welsh Government target of 2030 and support the implementation of the Welsh Government's new Low Carbon Delivery Plan.

Make representations to the Welsh and UK Governments, as appropriate, to provide the necessary powers, resources and technical support to Local Authorities in Wales to help them successfully meet the 2030 target.

Continue to work with partners across the region.

Work with local stakeholders including Councillors, residents, young people, businesses, and other relevant parties to develop a strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030 and explore ways to maximise local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy.

The Strategy address six elements of the carbon agenda – Carbon Emissions, Energy, Travel, Circular Economy, Purchased Goods and Water.

- i. Carbon Emission – suppliers should be monitoring and tracking emissions and setting target to reduce emissions.
- ii. Energy – suppliers should have commitments to reduce consumption and be switching to low carbon options as a minimum. The preference is for 100% renewables with an expected target date of 2025.
- iii. Travel – minimum requirement to have a commitment to low or zero emissions in modes in transport and preferences of them already being in use.
- iv. Circular Economy – as a minimum suppliers should already be complying with relevant recycling legislation but it is expected that take back schemes are used and that there is diversion of hard to recycle products from landfill.
- v. Purchased Goods – products meet Government Buying Standards. Cleaning products not tested on animals and suppliers meeting Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment standards as a minimum requirement.
- vi. Water – use of water is minimised and use of efficient systems is promoted.

Review

The Policy and Strategy will be subject to regular review and update.

Wales TOMs Summary

1. A Prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well- educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	a. More people in employment
	b. Fair Work
	c. Improved skills for people
	d. Improved skills for a low carbon transition
	e. More opportunities for local business and MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)
	f. Resource efficiency and the circular economy are promoted
	g. Innovation to support a more prosperous Wales
	h. Retaining jobs and skills during the COVID-19 crisis
2. A Globally Responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	a. Carbon Emissions are reduced
	b. Ethical procurement is promoted globally
	c. Innovation to support a globally responsible Wales
3. A Resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.	a. Green spaces and biodiversity are protected and enhanced
	b. Safeguarding the environment
	c. Sustainable procurement is promoted
	d. Innovation to support a more resilient Wales
4. A Healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	a. Creating a healthier community
	b. Air Pollution is reduced
	c. Improving staff wellbeing
	d. Innovation to support a healthier Wales
	e. Supporting workers, SMEs and third sector and civil society organisations to face the COVID-19 crisis
5. A More Equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic circumstances).	a. More opportunities for disadvantaged people
	b. Improved employability of young people (under 24 years old)
	c. More support for target curriculum activities
	d. Reducing inequalities
	e. Ethical procurement is promoted in Wales

	f. Innovation for a more equal Wales
6. A Wales of Cohesive Communities Attractive, safe, viable and well-connected	a. More opportunities for the Third Sector and Civil Society Organisations (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises)
	b. A workforce and culture that reflect the diversity of the local community
	c. Social value embedded in the supply chain
	d. Crime is reduced
	e. Vulnerable people helped to live independently
	f. Support for disadvantaged young people and their families
	g. More working with the Community
	h. Innovation to support more cohesive communities in Wales
	i. Supporting workers, SMEs and third sector and civil society organisations to face the COVID-19 crisis
	j. Supporting communities to deal with the COVID-19 crisis
7. A Wales of Vibrant Shared Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	a. The Welsh Culture is promoted
	b. Native wildlife, nature and heritage sites are protected
	c. Innovation to support a more vibrant culture