



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

# **Sustainable Procurement Policy**

**Draft**

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# 1. Introduction

This policy sets out the general principles that the Council will follow across all of its procurement and commissioning activities to ensure that it is undertaken in a sustainable manner.

It sets out how OIC will plan and manage its procurement activities to meet the Council's corporate aims and objectives and comply with regulatory and legislative requirements.

This policy supports the commitment to sustainable procurement which is set out in the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy 2016-2018:

<http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/P/procurement-strategy-2016-to-2018.htm>.

It is intended for all of those who are involved in, or affected by, the Council's procurement activities throughout our community and beyond.

Orkney Islands Councils spends tens of millions of pounds each year on a diverse range of goods, services and works from third parties. It is important therefore that this spending power is used to support key Council objectives. This sustainable procurement policy has been developed to help the Council to meet its legal duties and to deliver its key strategic objectives.

Sustainable procurement supports the Council's values, as outlined in Orkney Islands Council's Delivery Plan 2015-2018:

[http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Council/Council-Plans/OIC\\_Delivery\\_Plan\\_2015\\_2018.pdf](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Files/Council/Council-Plans/OIC_Delivery_Plan_2015_2018.pdf)

“Our **values** are our beliefs and our principles. These are a guide for what is right and for how we should conduct the work that we do.

- Promoting Survival: To support our communities.
- Promoting sustainability: To make sure economic, environmental and social factors are balanced.
- Promoting equality and fairness: To encourage services to provide equal opportunities for everyone.
- Working Together: To overcome issues more effectively through partnership working.
- Working with communities: To involve community councils, community groups, voluntary groups and individuals in the process.
- Working to provide better services: To improve the planning and delivery of services.”

The Policy outlines how sustainable procurement supports and contributes to the implementation of the Council's Delivery Plan 2015 – 2018.

## 2. Background

Orkney Islands Council required a new Sustainable Procurement Policy because of recent significant changes in public procurement legislation. The Policy reflects the requirements of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016, the Concession Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016, the Utilities Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016 and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016. These and other major pieces of legislation have informed the Council's Contract Standing Orders, details of which are contained in the Procurement Strategy.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy and Council's Contract Standing Orders. It applies to the procurement of all goods, services and works. It aims to ensure that Council procurement activities contribute to the social, economic and environmental well-being of our remote and fragile islands communities, both now and in the future.

The Sustainable Procurement Policy also reflects changes brought about by the requirements of the Community Empowerment Act Scotland 2015, a fundamental review of Community Planning Partnerships, and the development of a new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), which has replaced the Single Outcome Agreement and the integration of Health and Social Care. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 is also a diverse piece of legislation affecting many services.

The Policy outlines how the Council takes a responsible and sustainable approach to procurement.

## 3. What is Sustainable Procurement?

### Definition:

- "Sustainable Procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services and works in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis and generates benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society, the economy and the environment".
- Sustainable procurement considers the social, economic and environmental consequences of what is procured through all stages of its life-cycle. This includes considering design, resource extraction and sourcing, manufacturing and production, transportation, service delivery, operation and maintenance, reuse, recycling and disposal. It is also about questioning whether the purchase requires to be made at all.
- Sustainable procurement also considers the capacity of suppliers to address these consequences throughout the entire supply chain.

## 4. Sustainable Procurement Duty

The Council is now required to comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Procurement Duty under [section 9](#) of Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, as follows:

“The Sustainable procurement duty is the duty of a contracting authority:

A. Before carrying out a regulated procurement, to consider how in conducting the procurement process it can:

1. Improve the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the authority's area,
2. Facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported businesses in the process, and
3. Promote innovation, and

B. In carrying out the procurement, to act with a view to securing such improvements identified as a result of paragraph A.1.”

The Council is also obliged to have regard to the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 statutory guidance as detailed below:

- The Sustainable Procurement Duty; and Community Benefit Requirements in Procurement: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/2016/03/8410>.
- Selection of Tenderers and Award of Contracts: Addressing Fair Work Practices, including the Living Wage, in Procurement: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/10/2086/0>.
- Procurement of Health and Social Care Services: <http://www.gov.scot/publications/2016/03/8410>.
- Scottish Procurement Policy Note (SPPN) 07/2016 - Update to Guidance on the Procurement of Care and Support Services (Best Practice): <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/Procurement/policy/SPPNSSPANS/policy-notes/SPPN2016/CareSupportServicesBestPractice>.

All Contracts that are awarded by the Council, regardless of value, are subject to an obligation to seek best value and to demonstrate transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination and proportionality.

## 5. Benefits of Sustainable Procurement

The Council recognises and wishes to maximise the benefits achievable through sustainable procurement. While contributing to the social, economic and environmental well-being of people and places, sustainable procurement can deliver additional benefits for the Council. For example sustainable procurement will enable the Council to:

- Achieve value for money by avoiding unnecessary purchasing, by considering and then lowering the whole life costs of goods, services and works and through improved resource efficiency.

- Report on progress towards meeting its legal duties and other obligations in relation to climate change and sustainable development.
- Stimulate the market and encourage innovation for sustainable products and services.
- Support the local supply community by engaging with Small and Medium Enterprises and Third Sector organisations so they can compete for Council contracts.
- Help build a sustainable supply chain for the future and improve supplier relationships.

## **6. General approach to Sustainable Procurement**

The Council's approach to sustainable procurement is as follows:

- We will ensure that our procurement of goods, services and works contributes to achieving our vision of a truly sustainable supply chain.
- We will ensure that our procurement minimises its contribution to climate change and supports goods, services and works that are well-adapted to the consequences of a changing climate.
- We will deliver value for money by realistically assessing, where appropriate, the whole life-cycle costs of our procurement and not simply considering the initial purchase price.
- We will ensure that what we intend to purchase is necessary and that, where appropriate, there is a business case for doing so. We will specify our requirements so as to meet the needs of users and to avoid purchasing more than is needed.
- We will carry out sustainable procurement activities whilst complying within the public procurement legal framework which is intended to promote fair and open competition.
- We will ensure that when developing our requirements for goods, services and works we assess the possible social, economic and environmental impacts of our procurement and actively seek to contribute to the social, economic and environmental well-being of our remote and fragile island communities.
- We will not knowingly procure goods, services and works that impact negatively on places, people and other species both locally and elsewhere.
- Where appropriate, we will consult with the people whose needs we aim to meet through our procurement to ensure that we procure goods, services and works that actually meet their needs.
- We will not intentionally discriminate against specific groups of people when undertaking our procurement activities and will promote equality in line with legislative requirements.
- Where it is appropriate and proportionate to do so we will procure goods and services in line with the best practice guidance set out in the Scottish Government Procurement Journey and any other relevant best practice guidance

## **7. Scope and Implementation of the Policy**

Practical guidance on how sustainable procurement can be embedded into the Council's procurement processes is available on the Scottish Government's website. This is contained within the Scottish Government's "Procurement Journey" best practice procurement toolkit.

In line with the Council's Contract Standing Orders we will use the Sustainable Procurement suite of tools contained in the Procurement Journey to support implementation and to ensure that our procurement approach is relevant and proportionate to the Orkney Islands Council context.

The initial focus will be on priority commodities, services and suppliers i.e. those which are identified by the Council as being associated with the highest social, economic and environmental risks and opportunities.

Delivery of the commitments made in this policy will be supported through the implementation of the Council's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan. Progress against the stated objectives will be monitored and reported on an annual basis.

## **8. Outcomes from Sustainable Procurement**

### **Outcome 1: the social and economic benefits from our sustainable procurement are maximised.**

8.1. We will, where appropriate, build into the procurement process options for suppliers to offer training, employment, work experience placements, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities for members of our local communities including people experiencing long-term unemployment and young people not in employment, education or training.

8.2. We will encourage suppliers to communicate to our local communities, employment opportunities arising from our procurement activities.

8.3. In accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Procurement Duty of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, we will consider how, in conducting the procurement process, we can facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises and third sector bodies.

8.4. We will, where possible, reserve contracts for supported businesses under Regulation 21 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 where their prices and capacity to deliver is comparable to the rest of the market.

8.5. We will not knowingly purchase goods and services from suppliers that trade in slavery, prostitution, and illegal drugs. We will not knowingly work with suppliers who breach International Labour Organisation conventions.

8.6. We will, where practicable and where it is sustainable, purchase fair trade options as a means of helping excluded and disadvantaged producers, including independent small farmers, to access international markets and receive a fair price for their products.

8.7. In accordance with the requirements of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 in relation to the provision of food, we will take measures to improve the health, wellbeing and education of the local community. We will, where practicable and where it is sustainable, specify fresh, seasonal and nutritious food.

8.8. We will not knowingly purchase genetically modified food or food with genetically modified ingredients.

8.9. We will specify Protected Geographical Indication and Protected Designation of Origin standards where they are justified by menu requirements.

8.10. In line with the requirements of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 in relation to the provision of food, we will promote the highest standards of animal welfare through our procurement. We will consider animal welfare when making procurement decisions, and wherever possible, will not purchase goods which have been developed using animal testing.

8.11. In accordance with Regulation 47 of the Public Contract (Scotland) Regulations 2015, we will consider dividing contracts into small lots to encourage the active participation of our local businesses in the procurement process.

## **Outcome 2: the environmental impacts are minimised and the environmental benefits maximised from our procurement**

8.12. We will procure goods, services and works that minimise carbon-based energy use and its associated emissions, use of non-renewable resources, waste creation and pollution to air, water and land. In doing so, we will consider all stages of the life-cycle including design, resource extraction and sourcing, manufacturing and production, transportation, service delivery, operation and maintenance, reuse, recycling and disposal.

8.13. We will, where appropriate and where it is sustainable, purchase fewer new goods by re-using, repairing, refurbishing or remanufacturing existing goods, in line with Scotland's 2016 Circular Economy Strategy 'Making Things Last'.

8.14. We will, where appropriate and where it is sustainable, specify goods and materials made with a high content of recycled material and/or goods and materials that can be re-used or recycled.

8.15. We will specify minimum packaging, reusable packaging and packaging take-back.

8.16. We will specify energy efficient goods, services and works in line with current best practice standards and specifications.

8.17. We will ensure that the vehicles we purchase, lease or hire have low emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants.

8.18. We will procure timber and timber-based goods from verifiable sustainable sources that evidence clear chains of custody.

8.19. We will, in exercising our procurement function, meet the duty to further the conservation of biodiversity arising from the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act

2004. We will, where appropriate, specify through our procurement processes requirements which protect and enhance green spaces, habitats, species and biodiversity both locally and globally. In particular, we will protect and enhance priority habitats and species in Orkney.

### **Outcome 3: Orkney Islands Council has a more sustainable supply chain**

8.20. We will work with suppliers and encourage them, whenever possible, to use more sustainable goods, processes and working practices in their own business operations and encourage them to engage in sustainable procurement activities within their own supply chains.

8.21. We will encourage suppliers, through the inclusion of sustainability criteria in our tendering process, to develop innovative and competitively priced sustainable goods, services and works.

8.22. We will ensure suppliers comply with their commitments to the sustainability criteria within our specifications and their tender submissions by building in proportionate, effective monitoring and management into contract arrangements.

### **Outcome 4: sustainable procurement is embedded within the Council**

8.23. We will establish clear leadership to drive the embedding and continuous improvement of sustainable procurement within the Council.

8.24. We will communicate this policy and accompanying guidance to all Council staff.

8.25. We will undertake an assessment of third party expenditure to identify those contracts associated with the highest risk and greatest opportunity for improvement. This will be based on an analysis of spend, risk, scope for improvement and our influence of the market.

8.26. We will develop and continuously improve the sustainable procurement skills and knowledge of Council staff involved in procurement activities. This will include those responsible for identifying a need to procure goods, services and works, those involved in evaluating tenders and those responsible for contract and supplier management.

8.27. We will subject all major requirements for goods, services and works to a sustainability test during the development of procurement plans. This will question whether requirements can be reduced or avoided altogether by delivering outcomes in other ways; that social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits have been identified and that whole life-cycle costs have been considered.

8.28. Where relevant, we will include sustainability criteria in tender documentation and our tender evaluation process.

8.29. We will measure and report on our progress in embedding and continuously improving sustainable procurement and its contribution to delivering sustainable outcomes annually.

## **9. Other relevant policies and procedures**

Sustainable procurement also contributes to delivery of a range of Council policies and strategies, some of which have reporting requirements relating to procurement activities. These include:

- The Equality Act 2010 and The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.
- The Council's climate change targets and carbon management plan (including the annual Climate Change Reporting requirements).
- The Council's environmental management and waste management procedures.

Sustainable procurement can also make a significant contribution to the development of the 'Circular Economy' by adopting the principles of 'Making Things Last – A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland'. In a circular economy, systems are designed to make better use of valuable products and materials – changing the way they are produced and managed to have less impact on finite natural resources, and create greater economic benefit.

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/02/1761>

## **10. Monitoring and Reporting**

The Council's progress in sustainable procurement will be reported as part of our annual procurement report. The annual procurement report is a requirement of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. We will use this report to demonstrate compliance with other legislation that places specific requirements on the Council with respect to our procurement activities, for example, the Equality Act 2010 and The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

## **11. Review**

We will review this Policy every year to ensure that it remains in line with the Council's Procurement Strategy and the Council's Delivery Plan.