
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 22 December 2010

**EX.225/10 REVISED PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING STRATEGY
2010-12
(Key Decision)**

(With the consent of the Chairman, and in accordance with Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, this item was included on the Agenda as a Key Decision, although not in the Forward Plan)

Portfolio Governance and Resources

Subject Matter

The Assistant Director (Resources) submitted report RD.65/10 recommending the adoption of a revised Procurement and Commissioning Strategy for the period 2010-12.

He reported that the Council's Procurement Strategy was first produced in April 2003 and revised in 2006 to ensure that issues contained in the National Procurement Strategy were incorporated within the Council's procurement activities.

The Assistant Director (Resources) referred Members to the draft Strategy and Appendices to his report which had been submitted to the Senior Management Team following scrutiny and feedback by the Audit Commission as part of their annual audit inspection. The Audit Commission had assessed the Council's arrangements to achieve value for money and concluded that the Council had satisfactory arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. He explained that the 2010-12 Strategy included a number of amendments and revisions intended to strengthen and clarify the Council's approach to the provision of goods, works and services. The aim of the Strategy was to set a clear framework for activity throughout the authority, which reflected the Council's Corporate Plan and complemented its Constitution and Contract Procedure Rules. He further outlined the objectives which had been set in considering revised corporate objectives and values and the requirements of Central Government and European legislation.

It had also been necessary to revise the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to accurately reflect the emerging changes through the implementation of electronic systems and procedures, and the utilisation of framework agreements and contracts. The revised Contract Procedure Rules had been accepted by Council in November 2010.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the draft Procurement Strategy as appended to Report RD.65/10 and made it available for consideration by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Following scrutiny the Executive would consider the Strategy at its meeting on 19 January, prior to making a formal recommendation to Council in February 2011.

Reasons for Decision

The proposed revisions to the Council's Procurement and Commissioning Strategy were intended to enable the Council to take advantage of alternative service delivery and tendering methodologies through changes in technology and efficiency legislation. The changes were intended to make procurement and commissioning more efficient, achieve greater cost effectiveness and also lead to competition between providers of goods, works and services.