

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & CORPORATE SERVICES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 2013

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Report prepared by Stephen Trigg

1. COMMISSIONING & PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider the Commissioning & Procurement Strategy 2013-16.

1.2 Recommendation of The Head of Finance and Resources

1.2.1 That the Committee considers the Commissioning & Procurement Strategy 2013-16, attached as Appendix A, for approval by the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 Previous strategies have been successful in supporting the Council's strategic plans and visions by ensuring value for money, supporting the local economy, developing best practice in procurement, introducing shared services, incorporating environmental considerations and ensuring compliance with changing legislation.

1.3.2 The new strategy seeks to continue the development of these practices and policies alongside the introduction of a commissioning approach to the delivery of services. This aligns with the emphasis on the commissioning of services in the Strategic Plan.

1.3.3 The intention of the strategy is to ensure that the Council spends its money in the most effective way to secure the best outcomes for the local community. Although value for money is still a key objective this must be considered within a greater understanding of the needs of the community, balancing those needs with the available resources and tailoring the services to meet the required outcomes.

1.3.4 A successful implementation of the strategy requires and enables the Council to:

- Identify, understand and challenge needs and priorities
- Challenge existing provision and review alternative delivery models
- Decommission services where appropriate
- Focus on outcomes
- Understand the market and encourage a diversity of providers
- Review the strengths and performance of providers and measure the outcomes
- Promote social value and sustainable procurement

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 The Council could choose not to develop a Commissioning and Procurement Strategy, however this would deny the Council the opportunity of continuing to ensure value for money whilst developing a commissioning approach to services and would be contrary to good practice.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 The proposed strategy, and the successful achievement of its objectives, supports the Council's Strategic Plan and its priorities.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 The main risks associated with the proposed strategy are:

- Adopting a commissioning approach to services. This will be managed by arranging appropriate training for members and officers.
- Financial, health and safety and other associated risks of third sector organisations and small businesses who are unlikely to have a track record or the full policies and procedures expected of larger businesses. Assessment methodologies will need to be developed that balance risk with the requirement to ensure equality of opportunity.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

1.	Financial	X
2.	Staffing	
3.	Legal	X
4.	Equality Impact Needs Assessment	
5.	Environmental/Sustainable Development	X
6.	Community Safety	
7.	Human Rights Act	
8.	Procurement	
9.	Asset Management	

1.7.2 Financial – There will be costs associated with training of Members and officers, which should not exceed £10,000 in the first year. Training in the following years will be continued using in-house resources.

1.7.3 Legal – Introduction of new legislation will be planned for and appropriate measures put in place to maintain compliance.

1.7.4 Environmental/Sustainable Development – Actions within the strategy strongly support environmental and sustainable development.

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

The Commissioning and Procurement Strategy is attached as Appendix A

1.8.2 Background Documents

None.

IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?

Yes

No

If yes, when did it first appear in the Forward Plan?

April 2013

This is a Key Decision because: it is one of the Council's key strategies.

Wards/Parishes affected: All

How to Comment

Should you have any comments on the issue that is being considered please contact either the relevant Officer or the Member of the Executive who will be taking the decision.

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