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| REPORT OF: | EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE |
| TO: | COUNCIL FORUM |
| ON: | 24th MARCH 2022 |

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| SUBJECT | Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy |
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Council has developed a new Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy to ensure that every pound the Council spends maximises value for money for the Borough and helps to deliver the priorities of the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council Forum:

- Notes the Executive Board approval of the Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy;
- Approves the Social Value Policy.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council's previous procurement strategy was out of date and in need of updating to respond to a range of factors that make effective procurement more important than ever.

Social Value has been approached by the Council on a case by case basis to date with some successes but there is an opportunity to drive out much more benefits for the borough with a policy that sets out a clear approach and priorities.

The Government has issued a National Procurement Policy and a number of Procurement Policy Notes which set out the government's priorities for procurement as the country recovers from the effects of the pandemic. The Government has also issued a Green Paper on Transforming Public Procurement setting out its proposals for changes to procurement regulations after the UK's departure from the European Union.

Procurement will play a key role in the Council delivering its medium term financial strategy and in meeting the aim of being net zero by 2030 set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration. In addition pressures in supply chains caused by the pandemic and Brexit have emphasised the need for effective procurement and contract management.

The Council has also recently participated in a Local Government Association (LGA) benchmarking exercise for procurement which identified a number of areas of strength to be built on together with some opportunities to strengthen the Council's procurement arrangements. Notable strengths were related to working with partners, managing strategic risk and engaging VCSEs. Areas for improvement included engaging Councillors, contract and relationship management and obtaining social value. Implementation of the strategy and policy will address these areas for improvement.

The Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy provides the outline and framework for the Council's response to the above issues and challenges.

At the Executive Board meeting on 10th March 2022, Members approved the Procurement Strategy and Social Value Policy, with a recommendation that Full Council approve the Social Value Policy.

The links to the report submitted to Executive Board are below:

[EBD1: Executive Board Decision \(blackburn.gov.uk\)](#)

[Appendix 1](#)

[Appendix 2 - Procurement SV](#)

Council Forum is therefore requested to approve the Social Value Policy.