

AGENDA ITEM NO 7

REPORT NO 21/25

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2025

ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT

REPORT BY JACKIE BUCHANAN, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE & CHANGE

1. ABSTRACT

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's statutory annual procurement report under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and recommends that the Annual Report is now published, and the necessary return made to Scottish Ministers.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the Angus Council Procurement Annual Report 2023/24 which is annexed as Appendix 1 to this report;
- (ii) authorises the Director of Legal, Governance & Change to publish the Annual Report on the Council's website and to provide the necessary return on the Annual Report to Scottish Ministers in line with Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014; and
- (iii) authorises a review of the Council's ongoing membership of Scotland Excel (SXL), a paid for provider of procurement services and resources within the public sector, in light of the potentially diminishing benefits.

3. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

- 3.1 This report contributes to the following priorities contained in the Angus Council Plan: -
- That Angus is 'go to' area for businesses
 - That Angus Council is efficient and effective

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (the "2014 Act") requires any public organisation, which has an estimated total value of regulated procurement spend of £5million or more (excluding VAT) in a financial year, to prepare and publish a procurement strategy and to publish an annual report on its procurement performance against that strategy. This report presents that Annual Report for 2023/24.

- 4.2 The last Annual procurement Report was reported to Policy & Resources Committee in March 2024 in respect of the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 ([Report No. 87/24 refers](#)).

5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Angus Council Annual Procurement Report 2023/24 is annexed to this report as Appendix 1. The function of the Council's annual procurement report is to: -
- aid stakeholder (citizen and government) visibility of procurement activities;
 - be a mechanism for conveying how the Council is meeting legislative procurement requirements;
 - outline how the Council's procurement activity is contributing to the delivery of its broader aims and objectives; and

- address all of the commitments contained in the Council's procurement strategy and support the annual review of the strategy.

5.2 Some key themes emerging from 2023/24 include:

- The period 2023/24 marked a time of change within the Council's Procurement function. Resourcing of a Corporate Team was undertaken, involving the addition of 2x Contracts Officers to the team which facilitated the commencement of a category approach to corporate procurement.
- In late 2023 the Procurement & Commissioning function expanded to accommodate the Strategic Commissioning Team which has responsibility for managing the Council's relationships with its key strategic partners – namely ANGUSalive, Tayside Contracts and VAA. Two members of staff were subsequently appointed to vacancies within this part of the team.
- Angus Council's Corporate Procurement Team received its first ever shortlisting nomination for the GO Awards – the annual national public sector procurement awards. This was for the innovative gain share approach taken in the procurement of pupil attainment tracking software.
- Procurement savings targets for 2023/24 were met and the team remains on target to achieve those for the current financial year. The measuring and recording of these savings represent a change from previous years where the figures reported were just those estimated by SXL through use of their frameworks. The introduction of specific targets, with resultant cuts to budgets, is represented as £200k for 2023/24, £200k for 2024/25 and £75k 2025/26.
- The Procurement & Commissioning team is continuing with its planned programme of Education, Enablement & Efficiencies identification as outlined to this committee previously (Report No. 223/22 refers). This will improve compliance, reduce inefficiencies, duplication and wastage whilst developing a stronger Council-wide appreciation of the role appropriate procurement plays in adding value for all.
- Procurement training to all Council Services continues with Service Leaders invited to individual sessions for their teams ahead of the roll out of the e-learning modules (these being compulsory for those undertaking procurement activity on behalf of the Council).
- After many short-term extensions, the Government introduced Key Supplier Support Scheme, as part of the Covid-19 response, has now finally been wound down. Whilst this removed the need for additional agency support in connection with the processing of claims, there was still vital work to be undertaken to ensure these much relied upon care providers were able to continue operation once this additional support ceased.
- Although the Tayside Procurement Consortium (TPC) no longer exists as a distinct body, the three local authorities, and Tayside Contracts, continue to work closely. Angus continues to be the driver in maintaining close communications and organising collaborative initiatives / networking events.
- As identified in Annex C of the Annual Procurement Report, the identified direct savings attributable from use of SXL frameworks have diminished greatly. Whilst it is recognised that Scotland Excel (SXL) also offers indirect savings. This reduction has necessitated a wider review of the overall appropriateness of Angus Council to continue to fund its annual membership with SXL.

6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 It is proposed that Committee notes the proposed Angus Council Annual Procurement Report 2023/24 annexed hereto, agrees that the report will be published on the Angus Council website and that the necessary return on the Annual Report will be notified to the Scottish Ministers in line with the Council's duties under Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising directly from approval of the recommendations set out in this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The following risks from the Corporate Risk Register are relevant to this report:

- Financial Sustainability
- Transforming for the Future
- Performance Management
- Legislation

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening review has been undertaken and a full EIA is not required as procurement deals with the technical aspect of delivery as opposed to the creation of individual service delivery strategies.

11. CHILDRENS RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 A Childrens Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been undertaken and a full assessment is not required as the "General Principles" do not apply to this proposal.

12. CONSULTATION

12.1 The Director of Finance and the Director of Legal, Governance and Change have been consulted on the contents of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Angus Council, Annual Procurement Report 2023/24

Annex A: Procurement Strategy Workstreams Update
Annex B: Annual Procurement Reporting Requirements
Annex C: SXL Participation
Annex D: Contracts Register