



Report of the Convener of the Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 March 2022

Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry Final Report

Purpose:	To present the final report for the scrutiny inquiry into procurement.
Content:	The final report is attached which concludes the inquiry.
Councillors are being asked to:	Agree the report for submission to Cabinet.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Chris Holley, Convener Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry
Lead Officer and Report Author:	Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer Tel: 637256 / E-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Details

- 1.1 Within the Scrutiny Work Programme, the Scrutiny Programme Committee established an Inquiry Panel to look into Procurement, and appointed Councillors to the Panel to plan and carry out this work, gather evidence, consider findings, and prepare a report for Cabinet. The final report arising from the Scrutiny Panel's Inquiry into Procurement is presented to the Committee for agreement to submit the report to Cabinet for decision. The attached report presents the conclusions and recommendations arising from the Inquiry that sought to answer the following question:

'How can Swansea Council ensure it procures locally, ethically and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?'

- 1.2 The report is structured in the following way:

- Foreword: Why This Matters
- Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations
- Why We Produced this Report
- Evidence Considered

- Conclusions
- Recommendations
- Acknowledgements
- About the Inquiry Panel

1.3 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is asked to agree the report for submission to Cabinet. In considering the report the Committee should satisfy itself that:

- Sufficient evidence has been gathered in order to address the question that the Inquiry aimed to answer.
- The conclusions of the Panel are supported by the evidence gathered by the Panel.
- The recommendations of the Panel follow from their conclusions and are reasonable, achievable and capable of being actioned and monitored.

If the Committee have any significant issues with regard to the report, these will need to be referred back to the Panel for further consideration, with the report then being re-presented to the Committee.

1.4 In considering the report the Committee may wish to emphasise aspects of the Inquiry to Cabinet. Points of this type can be included on the covering report that goes to Cabinet and will be attributed to the Committee. Additionally, the Committee may identify issues arising from this work that merit future scrutiny.

1.5 Subject to the Committee's agreement, the Inquiry Report will be presented by the Convener to the earliest available Cabinet meeting. At that stage Cabinet will receive the report and the Cabinet Member with lead responsibility will be tasked to prepare a report for Cabinet addressing the Inquiry recommendations and providing action plan for Cabinet decision. The Inquiry Panel will ordinarily reconvene within 12 months of Cabinet decision for the purposes of following up the implementation of recommendations agreed by Cabinet.

2. Legal Implications

2.1 There are no specific legal implications at this stage.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications to this report. Any potential implications will be outlined in the Cabinet response.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the ‘well-being goals’.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.2 There are no impact assessment implications associated with this report. Equality and engagement issues were formally considered at the scoping stage of this inquiry and borne in mind by the Panel throughout evidence gathering. The Cabinet Member will need to ensure that implications are considered via application of the corporate Integrated Impact Assessment process when considering the response to the recommendations.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Final Report

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Screening form