

# Procurement Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

## Terms of Reference (Rough draft for discussion)

### Inquiry Key Question

The primary focus for the inquiry is to look at procurement in Swansea. The key question, therefore, is:

- *What is Swansea Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?*

### Reasons for carrying out this piece of work

Councillors chose to carry out this piece of work because they want to

- Ensure that the Council is meeting its duties under any legal frameworks
- Ensure Swansea Council procures locally, ethically and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices

### Lines of Inquiry

The inquiry will look at procurement in relation to the provision of council services. It will also consider what the Council does well and what can be improved in this area. This will include the following key lines of inquiry:

- a) Legislation/policy including national, local and European influences on our procurement practice:** What legislative and policy framework is used in the Councils procurement processes? How do we ensure transparency, sustainability and good probity in all we do? How will Brexit effect/influence procurement for Swansea?
- b) Positive social/local procurement:** What is our strategy, vision, aims and objectives in this area? How are we doing against those? For example our Community Benefits Policy including Beyond Bricks and Mortar.
- c) Environmentally and ethical procurement practices:** What is our strategy, vision, aims and objectives in this area? How are we doing against those? For example, how are we considering future generations and our impact on climate change in our procurement practice?
- d) Equalities Duty:** Do we ensure we and those we procure from/with are meeting the general Equalities Duty as specified in the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty for Wales 2011)
- e) Systems/processes and consistency of approach:** Are there effective and efficient systems/practices/processes in place across the Council to enable effective procurement practice? Are Council Officers consistently applying these practices?
- f) Joint procurement activities and working with others:** Procuring with others, for example, to improve our economies of scale, for example NHS and All Wales Purchasers Forum or similar.
- g) Measuring success:** How does the council measure how it is meeting its aims of, for example: local, environment and ethical practice? How does the council monitor

and enforce those requirements when working with others via for example their Service Level Agreements or Contracts?

### **Intended Impact and Contribution**

This inquiry intends to support the work of the Council by:

- Providing a councillor perspective on the issue
- Providing evidenced proposals to Cabinet that will lead to more effective services
- Gaining the views of the public, stakeholders, community groups and staff
- Considering and concluding on recommendations from national reports, legislation /directives and there implications for Swansea
- Identification of good practice/research elsewhere and whether there is any learning for Swansea's approach
- Increased councillor understanding about equalities
- Greater public awareness of work in relation to equalities

### **Membership of the Scrutiny Panel**

Cllr Chris Holley (Convener)

Cllr Brigitte Rowlands

Cllr Phillip Downing

Cllr Lyndon Jones

Cllr Mike White

Cllr Mary Sherwood

Cllr Mandy Evans

Cllr Irene Mann

Cllr Wendy Fitzgerald

Cllr Jeff Jones

Cllr Peter Jones

### **Lead Cabinet Member for Procurement**

Cllr David Hopkins

### **Key Officer Contact for the Inquiry**

Chris Williams, Head of Commercial Services

Sarah Lackenby, Chief Transformation Officer

### **Scrutiny Officer supporting the Inquiry**

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