

Sustainable Procurement Policy

1. Introduction

The Council spends around £14 million a year on goods, services and works. We recognise that our procurement practices can play an important role in delivering our three corporate priorities (strong economy, strong environment and strong communities), in line with our [Intelligently Green Plan](#).

2. Background

Our [corporate strategy](#) (2012 - 2016) sets the strategic context for everything we do. The following priorities and goals are particularly relevant to our procurement practices:

Strong economy

- Attract more businesses and jobs into Wychavon and retain existing ones.
- Improve skill levels.

Strong environment

- Reduce energy consumption and increase the generation of energy from renewable sources.
- Reduce the amount of waste produced in Wychavon.

Strong communities

- Provide great value services.

Our [Intelligently Green Plan](#) (2012 -2020) sets out our vision for a greener, more energy efficient and self-sufficient district by 2020. For us, being 'intelligently green' is about making choices that have not only a positive environmental impact, but also generate a return in financial or community terms. The plan focuses on four themes: energy; construction; food, tourism and green space; and transport. These are all relevant to our procurement practices.

3. Aim

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that sustainability is an integral part of all stages of our procurement processes and that our procurement activities support the delivery of our corporate priorities and goals, and our Intelligently Green Plan. In particular, we want to ensure our procurement contributes to a strong local economy and leads us to make intelligently green procurement choices – i.e. those that have a positive environmental impact and generate financial or community benefits such as;

- Supporting local jobs
- Improving local skills
- Local sourcing of goods
- Energy efficiency
- Increasing use of renewable energy
- Minimise waste
- Sustainability of materials and products

4. Key objectives/what we will do

We Will:

- Educate, train and encourage purchasers to review their consumption of goods and services to reduce usage and adopt more intelligently green products.
- Communicate the sustainable procurement policy to all relevant staff, members suppliers and key stakeholders.
- Collaborate with other organisations, such as other Worcestershire Councils, and the WMIEP to improve knowledge and understanding of sustainable procurement and to seek shared opportunities and benefits.
- Consider the costs and benefits of environmentally preferable goods and services as alternatives
- Investigate the impact of our expenditure on goods and services to identify potential environmental consequences
- Identify and promote examples of good practice sustainable procurement
- Ensure that where appropriate, suppliers environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier evaluation process and that where appropriate environmental criteria are used in the award of contracts
- Ensure that consideration is given to inclusion within specifications, of a facility for suppliers to submit offers for environmental friendly alternatives
- Specify, wherever possible and practicable, the use of intelligently green goods
- Promote our intelligently green plan to our suppliers
- Address barriers to entry in order that Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and local suppliers are encouraged to bid for Council business
- Identify where possible the use of the [West Midlands Skilled jobs framework](#)

5. Measurement and results

We will measure the results of what we do by –

- Looking at compliance with all relevant environmental, health & safety, diversity, disability and employment legislation.
- Reviewing aims and objectives to ensure continual improvement of our sustainable procurement performance.