

## **REPORT OF CABINET**

**(Meeting held on 1 August 2012)**

### **1. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2012-16 (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO 14).**

The Cabinet has adopted an updated Procurement Strategy to cover the period 2012-16. The new Strategy, which was prepared by a joint member and officer working group appointed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel, reflects the increasingly important role that procurement plays in delivering Council services, ensuring that the Council receives value for money.

In addition to supporting this approach, Cllr Wise, the Finance and Efficiency Portfolio Holder welcomed the alignment of good procurement practices with the Council's continuing programme of service reviews and other measures to improve efficiency. He advised the Cabinet that the Strategy had a clear core message, that the Council should obtain best value for the use of its resources, seeking quality, sustainability and local sourcing for the goods and services that were procured. The Council wishes to encourage local businesses to put themselves forward to win the Council's business. The Council spends over £15 million in the local economy each year and local small and medium sized enterprises should benefit from that market.

One new factor to be taken into consideration is the Right to Challenge, introduced by the Localism Act through which local people and staff can put forwards ideas to improve the delivery of the Council's services. Cllr Wise emphasised that the Council will always welcome the opportunity to listen to good ideas that might come forwards.

All of the potential suppliers that are included in the Council's approved lists have to go through an accreditation process to demonstrate not only their financial viability but also their technical ability and their performance on health and safety, equalities and equal opportunities. The Council's adherence to applying its procurement strategy is promoted through the use of a central procurement team and also monitored through the internal audit processes. The Council also takes part in the Hampshire Procurement Group to take advantage of co-ordinated procurement to achieve better terms.

**Cllr B Rickman  
CHAIRMAN**