

Business Operations and Partnerships Department

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Date: 21 September 2023

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TO: Councillors O O'Donnell (Chair); A Anderson (Vice Chair); D Devlin and K Pragnell.

CABINET

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held in the Council Chambers, East Renfrewshire Council Headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock on **Thursday, 5 October 2023 at 10.00am.**

The agenda of business is as shown below.

Louise Pringle

L PRINGLE

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

AGENDA

1. **Report apologies for absence.**
2. **Declarations of Interest.**
3. **General Fund Capital Programme – Report by Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) (copy attached, pages 3 - 12).**
4. **Housing Capital Programme – Report by Head of Accountancy (Chief Financial Officer) (copy attached, pages 13 - 18).**
5. **Annual Procurement Report 2022-23 – Procurement Strategy 2023-2026 – Update – Report by Chief Procurement Officer (copy attached, pages 19 - 70)**
6. **Clarkston Parklets – Community Review Results – Report by Director of Environment (copy attached, pages 71 - 76)**

This document can be explained to you in other languages and can be provided in alternative formats such as large print and Braille. For further information, please contact Customer First on 0141 577 3001 or email customerservices@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

A recording of the meeting will also be available following the meeting on the Council's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/eastrenfrewshire/videos>

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCabinet5 October 2023Report by the Chief Financial OfficerGENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to monitor both income and expenditure as at 30 June 2023 against the approved General Fund Capital Programme and to recommend adjustments where possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:-
 - note and approve the movements within the 2023/24 programme;
 - approve the transfer of £0.275m from Property Maintenance to St John's PS, Early Learning and Childcare Places; and
 - note shortfall of £0.180m and that income and expenditure on the programme will be managed and reported on a regular basis.

BACKGROUND

3. The General Fund Capital Programme for 2023-2033 was approved by Council on 1 March 2023.
4. Movements on the 2023/24 programme were approved by Council on 28 June 2023, including a number of changes resulting from the finalisation of the outturn position for the previous financial year.
5. This report updates project costs and phasings based on progress to date and anticipated to 31 March 2024.
6. As highlighted in previous reports, in general, construction costs are rising faster than general inflation due to shortages of materials and labour and also due to bidders factoring in additional risk in their pricing.
7. Consequently, we are constantly monitoring project expenditure so that additional cost pressures on key projects can be covered by deferring or reducing other projects to compensate. Where we have general provision for regular capital expenditure (such as on ICT, Roads, or Schools Major Works) officers are expected to prioritise spend on such schemes to remain within the budgeted level. It is recognised that this may mean that fewer such schemes will progress in year.

CURRENT POSITION

8.	Total anticipated expenditure (Appendix A)	£58.740m
	Total anticipated resources (Appendix B)	<u>£58.560m</u>
	Shortfall	<u>£ 0.180m</u>

INCOME MOVEMENTS

9. The main income movements are as follows: -

- **Borrowing**
Since the June Cabinet report, borrowing has been reduced by £10.500m due to timing variances in expenditure and other adjustments noted below.
- **General Capital Grant Including Free School Meals**
Grant of £0.121m awarded through the 'Edinburgh Process' strand of the Nature Restoration Fund has been added to the programme. This results in a total General Capital Grant of £5.583m and reflects the latest information from the Scottish Government.

A further £1.443m is included within the programme, to fund works associated with the expansion of Free School Meals. This is a provisional amount and is subject to confirmation from the Scottish Government. Any changes will be included in future monitoring reports.

- **Inspiring School Age Childcare Spaces Programme**
The Council has been awarded £0.150m of Scottish Government grant funding. This money will fund expenditure linked to further child spaces at Hillview, Arthurlie and Carlibar Primary Schools.
- **Active Travel Transformation Fund**
The Council has also secured grant income of £0.950m from Transport Scotland's Active Travel Transformation Fund. This is specifically to fund further construction and improvement works within the A77 active corridor during 2023/24.
- **Road Safety Improvement Fund**
Grant of £0.121m has been secured from the Scottish Government to further support road safety measures.
- **Sustrans funding – Lavern Valley Accessibility (Aurs Road) Project**
This was the subject of a separate report submitted to Council on 13th September 2023. Transport Scotland cannot now guarantee the carry-over of unused grant to future financial years and the Council must submit an application each year for further grant funding. The maximum grant available to support the project is 70% of expenditure. Previously this funding had been scheduled for 2024/25 in line with the majority of expenditure on the project. However in order to minimise the financial risk to the Council the drawdown will be accelerated to 2023/24 (current year) and consequently £2.9m has been included within the current programme. The position regarding Sustrans funding will become more clear in 2024/25 and updates will be included in future monitoring reports.

- **Scottish Government Grant - White Cart Tributaries**
The Council has been awarded £0.126m in relation to the White Cart Tributaries project. This will be used to improve river status and improve environmental outcomes as noted in the expenditure section below.
- **Lawn Tennis Association**
Grant of £0.118m has been secured to refurbish the existing tennis courts within Cowan Park.
- **Revenue Contribution to Capital Funding - St Ninian's Wellbeing Hub**
A contribution of £0.206m from the school's Devolved Management reserve will be used to fully fund these improvement works.

EXPENDITURE MOVEMENTS

10. The estimated expenditure has reduced by £5.790m below the level reported to Cabinet on 30 June 2023. The main expenditure movements are as follows:-

Property, Schools

- **Neilston Learning Campus**
Expenditure in the current year has been reduced by £0.700m. This represents the estimated element of contingency budget which will be deferred to the financial year 2024/25. The total cost remains unchanged.
- **Inspiring School Age Childcare Spaces Programme**
As outlined in paragraph 9 of this report, newly secured monies of £0.150m from the Scottish Government will support new capital improvements at Hillview Arthurlie and Carlibar Primary Schools.
- **New Build of Poor Condition Primary Schools**
Progress on these projects is dependent on the award of financial support from the Scottish Government through the Learning Estate Investment Programme Phase 3. While the application for support was submitted last year, notification of the outcome remains outstanding. In light of the delayed confirmation of funding, anticipated expenditure during 2023/24 has been reduced by £1.725m with any cost this year likely to be limited to initial design and preliminary works associated with the project. The provision for these works included in the programme is £0.500m, however, this will be reviewed over the remainder of the current financial year. Total project cost remains unchanged.
- **St Ninian's Wellbeing Hub**
As outlined in paragraph 10 of this report, £0.206m of improvement works have been added to the programme.

Property, Culture & Leisure

- **Neilston Leisure**
This project remains as the feasibility stage with only initial works likely to progress this year. Consequently, current year costs have been reduced by £0.999m. Total project costs remain unchanged.

Property, Other

- **City Deal – Barrhead South Access, Balgraystone Rd & Railway Station**
As previously reported, while the project is progressing, no significant expenditure will be incurred until formal unconditional approval of the STAG2 (Strategic Transport Analysis Guidance) report is received from Transport Scotland and the business case approved by City Deal. The continuing delays with STAG2 approval endorsement in particular mean that a prudent view of spend in the current year is appropriate, and the estimated expenditure in the year has been reduced by a further £2.483m.
- **Crookfur and Overlee Pavillions: Upgrades to Changing Areas**
Both these projects were progressed as part of a wider programme of works including the Early Learning and Childcare expansion project with the total value exceeding £28m. Both projects are now complete and the process to agree the final payments on the total project is being progressed. Provision for these payments has been made within the previous year's accounts to cover these payments with resulting savings of £0.105m for the Crookfur project and £0.216m for the Overlee project.

Open Spaces

- **White Cart Tributaries**
As outlined in paragraph 9 of this report, Scottish Government grant funding for this project area has increased by £0.126m. This is to support works to modify a weir to improve the river status and improve biodiversity outcomes. It is anticipated that full spending of this income stream will be achieved in the current financial year.
- **Regeneration Projects – Provisional Sums**
A new bid has been made to the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Fund which will require a significant contribution from Council funds to be successful, normally £0.250m. The outcome will not be known until late in the current financial year and, as a result, associated project costs will not be incurred until the next financial year. This is the principal factor causing a reduction of £0.283m in project costs in the current year.
- **Environment Task Force, Town Centre Action, Town Centre Regeneration, Giffnock Town Centre Improvements and Other Public Realm Projects**

The Council is reviewing use of the budget for these projects and considering links to other regeneration plans. It is envisaged that the current year budgets for these projects will help to support improvements identified within local action plans in 2024/25. A separate report will be presented to Cabinet regarding these plans. Therefore the combined expenditure of these projects of £0.200m has been deferred until the next financial year.
- **Nature Restoration**
As outlined in paragraph 9 of this report, additional income of £0.121m has been awarded through the Scottish Government's general capital grant. Expenditure in the year has been increased accordingly.

- Cowan Park Tennis Courts
As outlined in paragraph 9 of this report, new funding of £0.118m has been secured to refurbish the existing tennis courts within Cowan Park. Work is in progress to complete these works, with full spend anticipated in the current financial year.

Roads

- Lavern Valley Accessibility Project (Aurs Road)
This project was the subject of a separate report to Council on 13th September 2023. The tender process for these works is in progress with the estimated start date now early 2024. The revised estimate of expenditure incurred this financial year has increased by £0.327m above the level reported to Council during June 2023. However this is still significantly below the original approved estimate for the year (£16.503m).
- A77 Active Corridor Phase 2
As outlined in paragraph 9 of this report, new funding of £0.950m has been secured to support the construction of active travel infrastructure within the A77 corridor. These works are in progress with expenditure on the current scheme estimated at £0.700m. Further works to the value of £0.250m are being designed and are subject to formal approval by Transport Scotland before being progressed.
- Road Safety Improvement Funds
Also, as outlined in paragraph 9 of this report, new funding of £0.121m has been secured to support road safety measures in the area. A number of relatively small scale works have been identified and an expenditure provision of £0.121m has been added to the programme.

Council Wide ICT

- Full Fibre Digital Transformation
This project involves the replacement of the wide area network at most Council locations including schools. Implementation works are in progress and all available resources will be used to maximise delivery to the various sites involved. Nonetheless it is likely that the work will continue into the next financial year. Anticipated costs during 2023/24 have therefore been reduced by £0.142m, representing a relatively small amount of the total budgeted expenditure figure. The total project cost remains unchanged.

Fleet

- Education & Environment Vehicles
There is a significant lead-in time between ordering and receiving the large, specialist vehicles required. While orders have been placed for replacement vehicles they will not all be delivered before the financial year-end. In addition an age and condition assessment of the existing vehicles is also considered prior to placing the order for a replacement. In light of these factors anticipated expenditure in the current financial year has been reduced by £0.293m for Education vehicles and £0.555m for Environment. This expenditure has been deferred to future years and is not a saving.

Transfer

- Property Maintenance, Boiler & Roofing Works to Property Schools, St John's PS Early Learning & Childcare Places
The St John's building requires a wide range of works to accommodate increased nursery spaces together with roof improvements. In order to minimise disruption to the service and assist with the management of the project the work will be covered by one contract. As a consequence, it is proposed to transfer £0.275m from the Property Maintenance budget to the St John's project to cover the roofing element of the works.

COMMENT

11. The projected shortfall of £0.180m represents 0.31% of the resources available and is within manageable limits.
12. The projected expenditure figure of £58.740m significantly exceeds the actual outturn achieved during the previous financial year (£32.075m). A number of projects are scheduled to start on site later this financial year and the actual expenditure is dependent on the completion of the procurement process and the progress achieved by the successful contractors, which itself may be impacted by weather conditions. While comparing overall expenditure levels to date with those in previous years supports an increased level of capital expenditure in the current year, the £58.740m remains an ambitious target given the programme is being managed by a similar level of staff resource as previous years. Consequently further reductions in the projected outturn are likely as the year progresses and more clarity is provided on individual projects.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

13. This report has been prepared following consultation with appropriate staff from various departments within the Council including Property and Technical Services and Information Technology.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. The Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:-
 - note and approve the movements within the 2023/24 programme;
 - approve the transfer of £0.275m from Property Maintenance to St John's PS, Early Learning and Childcare Places; and
 - note shortfall of £0.180m and that income and expenditure on the programme will be managed and reported on a regular basis.

Further information is available from Paul Parsons, Principal Accountant – Capital, telephone 07741 701 451.

Margaret McCrossan

Head of Accountancy Services (Chief Financial Officer)
MMcC/PP
20 September, 2023

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GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

PROGRESS REPORT

2023/2024

	ANNUAL COSTS £'000			TOTAL COST £'000		
	CURRENT YEAR APPROVED AT 28.06.23	PROJECTED OUTTURN FOR CURRENT YEAR	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 30 JUNE 2023	EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO 31.03.23	PREVIOUS TOTAL COST	REVISED TOTAL COST
Property - Schools	28,463	26,654	2,848	55,404	177,549	178,180
Property - Culture & Leisure	4,253	3,211	128	3,937	68,337	68,337
Property - Other	10,766	7,612	82	14,485	43,249	42,653
Open Spaces	2,747	2,629	279	6,562	10,965	11,330
Roads	10,011	11,399	868	14,902	38,235	39,296
Corporate Wide - ICT	5,694	5,487	222	6,698	13,837	13,837
Fleet	2,596	1,748	-	9	2,605	2,605
TOTAL	64,530	58,740	4,426	101,997	354,777	356,238

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCabinet5th October 2023Report by the Chief Financial Officer and Director of EnvironmentHOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to monitor both income and expenditure as at 30 June 2023 against the approved Housing Capital Programme and to recommend adjustments where required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:-
 - note and approve the movements within the programme; and
 - note the shortfall of £188,000 and that income and expenditure on the programme will be managed and reported on a regular basis.

BACKGROUND

3. The Housing Capital Programme for 2023-2033 was approved by Council on 1 March 2023.
4. Movements on the 2023/24 programme were approved by Council on 28 June 2023, including a number of changes resulting from the finalisation of the outturn position for the previous financial year.
5. This report updates project costs and phasings based on progress to date and anticipated to 31 March 2024.
6. As highlighted in previous reports, in general, construction costs are rising faster than general inflation due to shortages of materials and labour and also due to bidders factoring in additional risk in their pricing.
7. Consequently, we are constantly monitoring project expenditure so that additional cost pressures on key projects can be covered by deferring or reducing other projects to compensate.

CURRENT POSITION

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 8. | Total anticipated expenditure (Appendix A) | £ 7.801m |
| | Total anticipated resources (Appendix B) | £ <u>7.613m</u> |
| | Shortfall | £ <u>0.188m</u> |

EXPENDITURE

9. The estimated expenditure has reduced by £0.600m below the level reported to Council on 28 June 2023.
10. This expenditure reduction relates solely to the Sheltered Housing works. This project covers a range of works at various sheltered complexes including lift replacement, warden call systems and central heating systems. As previously reported to Cabinet only essential energy efficiency type works are being progressed and less urgent works deferred while the Council await revised energy efficiency guidance from the Scottish Government. As a result estimated expenditure during the current financial year has been reduced by £0.600m. This is not a cost saving but simply a transfer of expenditure to a future financial year.

INCOME

11. Resources to support the programme have been adjusted as follows:-
 - Grant – Scottish Housing Net Zero Fund
The Council has secured grant support of £0.218m to undertake a pilot project to carry out fabric upgrades to 14 properties. The project aims to ensure that each property has a level B energy performance certificate following completion of the improvement works. The expenditure for this initiative is already included in the External Structural Works project.
 - Borrowing
In light of the expenditure and income movements outlined above the planned use of borrowing during the year has been reduced by £0.818m.

COMMENT

12. The projected shortfall of £0.188m represents 2.5% of the resources available and is within manageable limits.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

13. This report has been prepared following consultation with appropriate staff from Housing Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. The Cabinet is asked to recommend that Council:-
 - note and approve the movements within the programme; and
 - note the shortfall of £188,000 and that income and expenditure on the programme will be managed and reported on a regular basis.

Further information is available from Paul Parsons, Principal Accountant – Capital, telephone 07741 701 451.

Margaret McCrossan
Head of Accountancy Services (Chief Financial Officer)
MMcC/PP
20 September, 2023

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME****PROGRESS REPORT****2023/24**

COST CODE	PROJECT NAME	ANNUAL COSTS £'000			COMMENT	TOTAL COST £'000		
		CURRENT YEAR APPROVED AT 28.06.23	PROJECTED OUTTURN FOR CURRENT YEAR	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE TO 30.06.23		EXPENDITURE PRIOR TO 31.03.23	PREVIOUS TOTAL COST	REVISED TOTAL COST
835000002	Renewal of Heating Systems	350	350	21	Work in progress	0	1,010	1,010
832000001	Rewiring (including smoke/carbon monoxide detectors)	385	385	14	Work in progress	0	602	602
831000002	External Structural Works	1,852	1,852	82	Work programmed, revised procurement arrangements in place.	0	2,602	2,602
835000008	Estate Works	100	100	5	Work in progress	0	123	123
835000006	Energy Efficiency (Including Cavity Wall Insulation)	75	75		Work in progress	0	575	575
835000010	Aids and Adaptations	200	200	2	Work in progress	0	200	200
831500001	Internal Element Renewals (including kitchens, bathrooms and doors)	972	972	-58	Work in progress	0	972	972
835000005	Communal Door Entry Systems	250	250	88	Work in progress	0	250	250
835000012	Sheltered Housing	1,702	1,102	111	Work in progress	0	1,702	1,702
830500003	Purchase of Property (CPO/Mortgage to Rent Acquisition)	155	155		1 property identified - progress subject to grant confirmation	0	155	155
835000003	IT Systems	159	159		Work in progress	297	456	456
Grouped	Capital New Build Phase 1	229	229		Complete - payments outstanding	14,550	14,779	14,779
Grouped	Capital New Build Phase 2	1,962	1,962	20	Work in progress	11,629	45,321	45,321
N/A	Retentions	10	10			0	10	10
		8,401	7,801	285		26,476	68,757	68,757

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILREPORT TO CABINET5 October 2023Report by Chief Procurement OfficerANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT – 2022/23
PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2023 – 2026 UPDATE**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Annual Procurement Report 2022/23 and to provide an update on the implementation of the Procurement Strategy 2023 - 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Cabinet are asked to approve the Annual Procurement Report 2022/23 and note the update on the Procurement Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2.

BACKGROUND

3. The Annual Procurement Report is required under Section 18 (2) (a) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 where it is stated that Councils must publish a summary of their regulated procurements completed during the year covered by the report. This report provides an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate to our stakeholders that our procurement spend is being used to achieve not only best value but also supports the Council vision of being modern and ambitious to create a fairer future with all.

4. The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 also requires the Council to develop a Procurement Strategy and review it annually. The Procurement Strategy incorporates 2023-2026 and demonstrates how procurement in East Renfrewshire plays a fundamental role in delivery of the Council's strategic objectives is a key enabling strand for continuous improvement and identifying efficiencies across the Council.

REPORT

5. The Council's Annual Procurement Report 2022/23 is attached as **Appendix 1** and covers all regulated procurements completed during the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 defines regulated procurements as procurement exercises for goods and services with a value of £50,000 or more and for works with a value of £2million or more. Goods and services is defined as receivable goods including but not limited to, any deliverables, supplies, equipment or commodities and services including assembling, labour, installation, training, inspection, maintenance and repairs. Works is defined as a contract including but not limited to building, construction, fabrication, completion, erection, fitting out, modification, renovation and alteration.

6. The Annual Procurement Report highlights improvement activities in relation to key procurement capabilities as well as performance in the areas of community benefits and social responsibility. An indication of proposed regulated procurements to be carried out in the following 2 financial years is also contained within the report.

7. The updated Procurement Strategy 2023-2026 is attached as **Appendix 2** and Section 5 provides an update of progress against our key procurement aims of:

- Legal Compliance and Governance
- Economic Growth, Environmental, Social & Sustainability
- Strategic Procurement to Deliver Best Value & Continuous Improvement
- Performance Reporting to Drive Performance & Support Savings Delivery
- Contract & Supplier Management

8. Key achievement for Corporate Procurement in 2022/23 include:

- The Procurement team have continued to fulfill its obligations in relation to Procurement legislation and follow the Governments procurement guidance in the context of supporting supply chain resilience by working proactively with our suppliers and key partners to closely monitor the impact and recovery of Covid-19 Brexit and other global events on economic recovery, market pricing and availability.
- Identification and reporting of savings and benefits associated with procurement activity through benefits tracking process.
- Purchase to Pay newsletter and working group in place to support officers in their role and promote the benefits of early procurement engagement and innovation.
- Standard Operating Procedures in place for all key processes and systems used by the Procurement team.
- In partnership with Economic Development we have engaged the local supply base, SME's, third sector, charity and voluntary organisations by running appropriate accessible events in person and online including the annual Supplier Development Programme "Meet the Buyer Event".
- Embedded Online Contracts Register providing single source for contract data.
- Community Benefits designed to maximise opportunities for apprenticeships, employability and training, assisting business start-ups, helping to develop business growth.
- All elements of the contract strategy and tender process are reviewed and appropriately authorised to ensure legal compliance and delivery of best value.
- Generate value from use of collaborative contracts with other Councils, Scottish Government, Scotland Excel and approved bodies.
- Corporate model for contract and supplier management in place and standardised template documents to monitor supplier performance against contract requirements.

9. The next Annual Procurement Report 2023/24 and update to the Procurement Strategy will be provided to Cabinet in October 2024.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

10. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

11. No formal consultation was undertaken in the production of the report.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

12. There are no staffing, IT, legal, sustainability or other specific implications associated with this report.

CONCLUSIONS

13. This Annual Report 2022/23 and updated Procurement Strategy 2023-26 provides an review of annual activities whilst ensuring the Strategic Direction of Procurement is set to meet the current and future needs of the Council. Publication of the Annual Report and Strategy also ensure compliance with duties under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

14. Cabinet are asked to approve the Annual Procurement Report 2022/23 and note the update on the Procurement Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2.

REPORT AUTHOR

Chief Procurement Officer, Debbie Hill, Tel: 07889646701, email at Debbie.Hill@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Report date: 12 September 2023

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ANNUAL PROCUREMENT REPORT

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023



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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 18 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) requires East Renfrewshire Council (the Council) to publish an Annual Procurement Report which monitors the authority's regulated procurement activities against its Procurement Strategy. Regulated procurements are procurement exercises for goods and services with a value of £50,000 or more and for works with a value of £2million or more. A regulated procurement is completed when the award notice is published or where the procurement process otherwise comes to an end.

This report provides an opportunity for the Council to demonstrate to our stakeholders that our procurement spend is being used to achieve not only best value but also the Council vision of being modern and ambitious to create a fairer future with all.

- 1.2 The Annual Procurement Report is a mandatory requirement of the Act and must include

- A summary of the regulated procurements that have been completed during the year covered by the report,
- A review of whether those procurements complied with the authority's Procurement strategy,
- The extent that any regulated procurements did not comply, and a statement of how the authority intends to ensure that future regulated procurements do comply,
- A summary of any community benefit requirements delivered as part of a regulated procurement that were fulfilled during the year covered by the report
- A summary of any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements during the year covered by the report,
- A summary of the regulated procurements the authority expects to commence in the next two financial years,
- Such other information as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.

- 1.3 The Annual Procurement Report also details initiatives being developed to further improve the performance of the Procurement Unit in line with the procurement vision for the Council which is:

“To grow the strategic influence of procurement across the Council through respected and professional expertise, fostering positive relationships which ultimately deliver innovative, sustainable and compliant practices which provide best and added value for the organisation.”

- 1.4 East Renfrewshire Council's vision for the future is to be a “modern, ambitious council creating a fairer future with all and our ultimate aim is to make people's lives better”. The Council has 5 Strategic Outcomes:

- Early Years and Vulnerable Young People
- Learning, Life and Work
- Environment and Economy
- Safe, Supportive Communities
- Older People and People with Long-Term Conditions

- 1.5 The Council also has outcomes relating to Customer, Efficiency and People which are captured under the Strategic Outcome “Our Council is forward thinking and high performing”. Procurement has an important role to contribute to the following:
- Customer: Satisfied customers access services that meet their needs
 - Efficiency: Our physical, information and financial assets are efficiently managed
 - People: We have engaged employees who are motivated to deliver our outcomes
- 1.6 In order to deliver on these Strategic Outcomes, 3 Capabilities have been identified to provide the necessary skills required. These are:
- Prevention
 - Empowering Communities
 - Digital Change
- 1.7 Procurement can play an important role in achieving the Council's Strategic Outcomes and provide key skills contributing to the 5 Capabilities as detailed below:
- **Prevention** – we will collaborate with Services across the Council with a focus on preventing poor outcomes for our residents by supporting them to live independently; providing planned rather than reactive services and reducing demands on Council services in the longer term. We will seek to maximise opportunities for collaboration and using an evidence based approach to designing services.
 - **Empowering Communities** – we will utilise innovative approaches to more actively involve the community and individuals in the development of services and community spending, improving outcomes and the perception of Council services. We will explore ways in which contractors, commissioned partners and communities can work in partnership with us to deliver outcomes.
 - **Digital Change** – We will continue to improve our digital services to meet the needs of our customers and the growing demand to access council services online. We will expand on our work to improve processes, automating where possible to make them more efficient. We will make effective use of data to plan better services for the future and benchmark with other organisations to produce improved outcomes for our residents.

SECTION 2 - SUMMARY OF REGULATED PROCUREMENT

- 2.1 Section 18 (2) (a) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires Councils to include a summary of the regulated procurements that have been completed during the year covered by the report.
- 2.2. Regulated procurement refers to any procurement above £50,000 for goods and services, or £2,000,000 for works. A regulated procurement is completed when the award notice is published or where the procurement process otherwise comes to an end.
- 2.3 The number of regulated procurements carried out during the financial year 2022/23 was 49 with a total value of £39,862,029.82.
- 2.4 A listing of all regulated procurements from Financial Year 2022/2023 can be found at **Appendix 1**.

SECTION 3 REVIEW OF REGULATED PROCUREMENT COMPLIANCE

3.1 Procurement Strategy

The Procurement Strategy has set out 5 key procurement aims which will help to deliver operational and strategic procurement outcomes for the Council and are aligned to the Council's capabilities:

Legal Compliance and Governance – Ensure procurement procedures reflect developments in legislation and government guidance and support stakeholders to mitigate risk and deliver compliant contracts providing probity of Council spending.

Economic Growth, Environmental, Social and Sustainability - Compliance with our legislative and statutory procurement duties as well as consideration of areas such as living wage, circular economy, whole life costing, community health and wellbeing and early involvement of SMEs, Social Enterprises, Supported Businesses and Third Sector.

Strategic Procurement to Deliver Best Value and Continuous Improvement – To deliver a strategic procurement service by working closely with key stakeholders supporting the Council budget savings and driving a commercial focus across the organisation. All procurement activity is carried out in a transparent, proportionate, non-discriminatory, and accountable manner in accordance with procurement legislation and the Council's internal governance.

Performance Reporting to Drive Performance and Support Savings Delivery - To use an evidenced based approach to provide visibility of key performance information which supports informed decision making around the current and future direction of Procurement.

Contract and Supplier Management - Support services to take a proactive approach to contract and supplier management to achieve innovation and value for the Council and our residents.

- 3.2 In 2022/23 the Council has ensured that all regulated procurements comply with both the Council's Procurement Strategy and all relevant legislation. A summary of work carried out for each of our key procurement aims in 2022/23 is provided below.

Legal Compliance and Governance

- The Procurement team have continued to fulfill its obligations in relation to Procurement legislation and follow the Government's procurement guidance in the context of supporting supply chain resilience by working proactively with our suppliers and key partners to closely monitor the impact and recovery of Covid-19, Brexit and other global events on economic recovery, market pricing and availability.
- Provide user friendly procurement processes and plain English Standard Operating Procedures for all employees involved in the procurement process.
- Review current documentation and develop new content when required. Contract Standing Orders currently being updated in response to new procurement legislation or Scottish Procurement Policy Notes.
- Annual non-compliant spend analysis carried out to identify spend that is to be subject to a competitive procurement exercise.
- Category Management model used to work with service teams to award compliant contracts.

Economic Growth, Environmental, Social and Sustainability

- Procurement are working in partnership with Scotland Excel and Economic Development to adopt a Community Wealth Building approach to progressive procurement
- In partnership with Economic Development we have engaged the local supply base, SME's, third sector, charity and voluntary organisations by running appropriate accessible events in person and online including the annual Supplier Development Programme "Meet the Buyer Event"
- Sustainability procurement policy in place and all aspects of sustainable procurement maximised in appropriate contracts
- Living Wage and Fair Work Practices included in contracts to ensure the Council contracts with responsible suppliers
- Community Benefits designed to maximise opportunities for apprenticeships, employability and training, assisting business start-ups, helping to develop business growth
- "Community Benefits Wishlist" in place to encourage local community to suggest local improvements resulting from Council contracts
- Procurement apply relevant and proportionate criteria to technical scoring to ensure environmental impacts are considered appropriately in tender activities.

Strategic Procurement to deliver Best Value & Continuous Improvement

- Improved Stakeholder Relationships have ensured an improved understanding of the procurement pipeline in order to support the Chief Procurement Officer to manage the capacity of the Service effectively.
- All elements of the contract strategy and tender process are reviewed and appropriately authorised to ensure legal compliance and delivery of best value.
- The Chief Procurement Officer and Category Managers are represented on and have attended a number of internal and external forums.
- Procurement undertake annual refresher training on spend analysis using the Scottish Procurement Information Hub and attend courses with Scotland Excel.
- Procurement undertake detailed reviews of services and lead on projects to identify opportunities for savings and improved practice.
- Consideration of 'lotting' strategies to maximize inclusion of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME's), third sector, charity and voluntary organisations within the tender process
- Continual analysis of spend data ensuring informed decisions on how procurement activity within the organisation can be improved.
- Work in partnership with Accounts Payable and have implemented a No PO No Pay Policy.

- Continue to improve procurement performance across the Council as measured by the Scottish Government's Procurement and Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP).

Performance Reporting to Drive Performance & Support Savings Delivery

- Embedded process in place for the tracking of benefits from procurement activity with a number of savings opportunities presented to the Corporate Management Team for implementation.
- Embedded corporate Online Contracts Register in use and training delivered across the Council to ensure all departments access and maximize its use.
- Category Managers as part of business as usual activity analyse spend to create spend information dashboards to support relationships with services.
- Continue to maintain a procurement pipeline of expected and planned activities covering two financial years.
- Undertake benchmarking exercises to understand costs and identify most economically advantageous route to market.
- Generate value from use of collaborative contracts with other Councils, Scottish Government, Scotland Excel and approved bodies.

Contract & Supplier Management

- Corporate model and standardised template documents in place to monitor supplier performance against contract requirements
- All services trained providing clarity of roles and responsibilities to ensure economic and social value is continually driven from contracts
- Procurement Intranet pages updated with user focused documents to support officers involved in contract and supplier management
- Procurement continue to support services to realise estimated and planned savings to be captured through proactive contract and supplier management.
- Continually review and update standard template documents in line with best practice across the Public Sector

The Procurement Strategy 2023-2026 identifies a number of actions and expected outcomes aligned to our 5 key procurement aims. The Strategy is reviewed on an annual basis to drive continuous improvement.

SECTION 4 COMMUNITY BENEFITS SUMMARY

- 4.1 Section 18(2) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 states that it is mandatory for the Annual Procurement Report to include a summary of any community benefit requirements imposed as part of a regulated procurement that were fulfilled during the year covered by the report.
- 4.2 The Council's sustainable procurement policy covers community benefits and sustainability. By incorporating community benefits clauses and optimising the community benefits process, this will actively encourage suppliers to provide added value and support our internal stakeholders to capture these. This will also support a Community Wealth Building approach. The Council's commitment to this is demonstrated not only through the policy but also within the Procurement Strategy and the Council's Contract Standing Orders.
- 4.3 In 22/23 the East Renfrewshire Council Community Benefits group met quarterly to ensure accountability in the Community Benefits process.
- 4.4 A process for the identification and capture of Community Benefits is implemented. This includes an innovative and interactive Community "wishlist" which will ensure Community Benefits match the aspirations of local communities.

- 4.5 Community benefits are sought for applicable contracts where both the value (over £50,000) and duration of the contract merit a benefit being pursued. It is at the contract strategy development stage that community benefits are to be considered and reflected into tender documentation. Procurement also include a question in the Quick Quote process asking for voluntary Community Benefits.
- 4.6 The approach taken by the Council has been beneficial when developing the Glasgow City Deal Community Benefits Policy. The success of the “wishlist” approach has led to the City Deal working group seeking our assistance to further this approach. The Council has also been working to ensure that Community Benefits are better aligned to strategic and Scottish Government priorities such as the Local Outcome Improvement Plans, Child Poverty Action Plan and Regional Skills Investment Plan and has participated in the review and joint approach to a regional community benefits menu.
- 4.7 Community Benefits are an important element of the sustainable procurement duty and the steps taken by the Council to include community benefit requirements demonstrates compliance with that duty. The Act states community benefits must be considered for all procurements at or above £4 million. The Council requests benefits for all procurements from £50,000. This lower threshold achieves significantly more benefits.
- 4.8 Community Benefits from contracts in financial year 2022/23 included 18 new entrant jobs which is a significant increase from the 6 in 21/22 and a range of employability activities with Work East Ren and ‘Developing Young Workforce’ support for schools and a combined total of £28,885 donations in time and funds to community projects from the community benefits Wish List.
- 4.9 A summary of Community Benefits achieved in 2022/23 is included in **Appendix 2**.

SECTION 5 FAIR WORK AND LIVING WAGE

Fair Work

East Renfrewshire Council is committed to applying the Fair Work First criteria internally and in publicly funded supply chains. Fair Work First is the Scottish Government’s policy for driving good quality and fair work in Scotland. Through this approach, East Renfrewshire Council is asking bidders to describe how they are committed to progressing towards adopting these and how they intend to continue embedding the seven Fair Work First criteria:

- appropriate channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition
- investment in workforce development
- no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts
- action to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace
- providing fair pay for workers (for example, payment of the real Living Wage)
- offer flexible and family friendly working practices for all workers from day one of employment
- oppose the use of fire and rehire practices

In order to ensure the highest standards of service quality in this contract we expect suppliers to commit to progressing towards adopting the seven Fair Work First criteria in the delivery of contracts as part of a fair and equitable employment and reward package as a route to progressing towards wider fair work practices.

Living Wage

Whilst there are no legal restrictions on requiring payment of the living wage, suppliers are encouraged to pay the living wage to their employees. The fair working practices question that promotes a healthy, happy and motivated workforce is included in all regulated contracts.

The Council follows the lead of the Scottish Government by promoting the payment of the Living Wage to persons involved in fulfilling procurement requirements by considering, where relevant and proportionate, when Fair Working Practices should be addressed in contracting opportunities. The Council will comply with the Statutory Guidance on the Selection of Tenderers and Award of Contracts – Addressing Fair Work Practices, including the Living Wage, in Procurement.

East Renfrewshire Council became an accredited Living Wage employer in November 2020 in a project led by the Procurement Team. The Council's Living Wage commitment means that everyone working at East Renfrewshire receives the Living Wage rate and suppliers contracted to deliver services with the Council will be encouraged, through the procurement process, to pay the real Living Wage.

SECTION 6 PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

6.1 The table below provides a summary on payment performance:

Number of valid Invoices for the period	57,657
Percentage of Invoices paid on time for the period	51,471
Percentage Indicator for the period	89.3%
Number of Council regulated contracts awarded during the period containing a contract term requiring the Prompt Payment of Invoices	49
Number of concerns raised by sub-contractors about the timely payment of invoices within the supply chain of public contracts	0

SECTION 7 SUPPORTED BUSINESS SUMMARY

- 7.1 The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires organisations to include a summary of any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurements during the year covered by the report.
- 7.2 A "supported business" is an economic operator whose main aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons and where at least 30% of the employees of the economic operator are disabled or disadvantaged persons as defined in regulation 21 of the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (recital 36 of directive 2014/24/EU).
- 7.3 The Council is committed to supporting and improving access to procurement opportunities to supported businesses and will promote their use where it is appropriate. This can be demonstrated through:
- The adoption of a low value ordering process that encourages the use of supported business for non-regulated requirements.
 - The contract strategy development stage considers supported business and third sector organisations as part of the market research stage.

- 7.4 In 2022/23 The Council ordered the Supply and Installation of Kitchens from City Building (Glasgow) LLP (RSBi) who are a supported business with their work in the areas of integrating disabled or disadvantaged people socially and professionally.

SECTION 8 FUTURE REGULATED PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

8.1 The following future Regulated Procurements are currently within the pipeline of projects and may be delivered over the next two financial years.

It should be noted that all information is indicative and may be subject to change.

Tender Title / Subject	Estimated Value	Commencement Timescale
Legal Services Framework (Chief Executives)	£80,000	FY23/24
Annual Ski Trip (Education)	£144,000	FY 23/24
Outdoor Learning Project (Education)	£60,000	FY 23/24
Child Counselling Services (Education)	£659,000	FY 23/24
Residential Step-Down Services & Specialist Education for Children & Young People with Complex Needs (Education)	TBC	FY 23/24
Interactive Whiteboard /Active Panels (Education)	TBC	FY 23/24
Outdoor Education Residential Trips (Education)	250,000	FY 24/25
Online Payment System (Education)	TBC	FY 24/25
Preventative Maintenance & Repair of Technical Machinery (Education)	£60,000	FY 24/25
Youth & Family Support Services (Education)	£220,000	FY 24/25
First Aid Training (BOP)	TBC	FY 23/24
Webcasting (BOP)	TBC	FY 23/24
Cloud Partner (BOP)	TBC	FY 23/24
Fixed Line Telephony (BOP)	£200,000	FY 23/24
Server Hardware (BOP)	TBC	FY23/24
Corporate Backup and Restore (BOP)	TBC	FY23/24
ICT Specialist Support Framework (BOP)	£200,000	FY23/24

CCTV Support, Repairs & Maintenance (BOP)	£1,340,000	FY23/24
Key Holding Community Safety (BOP)	£80,000	FY23/24
Community Consultation Platform (BOP)	£50,000	FY23/24
Health & Safety System (BOP)	£50,000	FY23/24
External Firewall Replacement (BOP)	£100,000	FY23/24
User Management Resource Administrator (BOP – Education)	£50,000	FY23/24
Internet Bandwith (BOP)	£50,000	FY23/24
ESRI GIS Mapping Tool (BOP)	£84,000	FY 23/24
Data Centre Services (BOP)	£135,000	FY23/24
Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (BOP)	TBC	FY23/24
Records Management System (BOP)	£93,000	FY23/24
Backup Solution for Office 365 (BOP)	£69,000	FY23/24
Online Interactive Education Learning Platform (BOP/Education)	£56,000	FY23/24
LAN Circuits – CCTV Connectivity (BOP)	£60,000	FY23/24
IAMS Core Lite (BOP)	£52,000	FY23/24
Managed Print Services (BOP)	£64,000	FY23/24
Parents Evening & Room Booking System (BOP)	TBC	FY23/24
Cyber Insurance (BOP)	£55,000	FY23/24
License Renewal for Virtual Server Estate (BOP)	TBC	FY23/24
Mobile Phone (BOP)	£120,000	FY23/24

Corporate Training Calendar (BOP)	TBC	FY24/25
Unified Communications Technology (BOP)	TBC	FY 24/25
Customer Digital Experience (BOP)	TBC	FY 24/25
Traffic Load Balancers for Network Traffic (BOP)	£120,000	FY24/25
Telephony Licensing Bundling (BOP)	TBC	FY24/25
SIP Bundle (BOP)	TBC	FY24/25
Income Management Payment Solution	£360,000	FY24/25
Nimble Storage (BOP)	£90,000	FY24/25
Customer Digital Experience Management System – Website Design (BOP)	£240,000	FY24/25
Server Hardware (BOP)	£150,000	FY24/25
Cyber Security Operations Centre (BOP)	£275,000	FY24/25
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement & SQL (BOP)	£700,000	FY24/25
Microsoft Campus Desktop Education All Language Licence (BOP)	£400,000	FY24/25
Data & Business Intelligence Framework (BOP)	£510,000	FY24/25
Technical Assurance Services & Cloud Partner (BOP)	TBC	FY24/25
Infrastructure Circuits (BOP)	TBC	FY24/25
Family Group Decision Making (HSCP)	£50,000	FY23-24
Community Café Services (HSCP)	TBC	FY23-24
Near-Fatal Overdose Services (HSCP)	£50,000	FY23-24

Residential and Nursing Care Home Placements (HSCP)	£12,514	FY23-24
Provision of personal care, housing support and care (HSCP)	£20,465,545	FY23-24
Social Care Case Management System (HSCP)	£1,000,000	FY23-24
Out of Hours Counselling Service (HSCP)	£884,000	FY24-25
Family Wellbeing Service (HSCP)	£700,000	FY24-25
Emotional Wellbeing Service (HSCP)	£269,000	FY24-25
Peer Support (HSCP)	£324,824	FY24-25
Peer Navigators (HSCP)	£75,000.00	FY24-25
Peer Research (HSCP)	£58,230	FY24-25
Post Diagnostic Support with Dementia Clients (HSCP)	TBC	FY24-25
Community Link Workers (HSCP)	£153,083	FY24-25
Lone Worker Services (HSCP)	TBC	FY24-25
Carers Services (HSCP)	£630,000	FY24-25
Post Diagnostic Dementia Support, and Advice to Families (HSCP)	TBC	FY24-25
Call Monitoring and Scheduling (HSCP)	TBC	FY24-25
Ash Dieback Survey (Env)	£64,505	FY 23/24
Street Lighting Installations and Maintenance Services (Env)	£180,000	FY 23/24
Carriageway & Footway Reconstruction/Resurfacing Framework Agreement (Env)	£17,600,000	FY23/24
Disposal of Roadworks Materials (Env)	£110,000	FY23/24

Winter Maintenance and Gritting (Env)	£1,200,000	FY23/24
Weedkilling of Public Road Network (Env)	£70,000	FY23/24
Waste Regulation POPs/DRS/Circular Economy (Env)	TBC	FY23/24
Supply and Install Play Equipment/Surfacing (Env)	£261,000.00	FY23/24
Arboricultural Works (Env)	£900,000	FY23/24
Sports Pitch Maintenance Materials & Weed Control Materials (Env)	£129,000	FY23/24
Treatment of Organic Waste – Co-mingled Food and Garden Waste (Env)	£614,000	FY23/24
Post-Consumer Waste Glass, Cans and Plastics (Co-mingled) (Env)	£95,000	FY23/24
Provision of Containers for Street Cleaning Arisings & Subsequent Recycling / Disposal of Gully Arisings (Env)	£90,000	FY23/24
Collection & Recycle Wood, Chipboard & MDF at Barrhead HWRC (Env)	£15,000	FY23/24
Collection & Recycle Mixed Scrap Metal at Barrhead HWRC (Env)	Rebate	FY23/24
Collection & Recycle Cardboard Barrhead HWRC (Env)	Rebate	FY23/24
Neilston Leisure Centre, Design Team (Env)	£1,100,000	FY23/24
Eastwood Leisure Centre and Theatre Design team (Env)	£2,500,000	FY23/24
Provision of the Printing, Packaging & Distribution Garden Waste Permits (Env)	£30,000	FY 23/24
Delivery of Business Gateway Services (Env)	£440,000	FY23/24

Fire Alarm Servicing & Maintenance (Env)	£300,000	FY23/24
Lift Maintenance and Servicing (Env)	£120,000	FY23/24
Air Conditioning Unit Maintenance and Servicing (Env)	£200,000	FY23/24
Swimming Pool Plant Repairs & Servicing - Planned Preventive Maintenance (Env)	£300,000	FY23/24
Measured Term Contract Glazing Repair and Replacement (Env)	£200,000	FY23/24
Measured Term Contract Winter Maintenance & Gritting (Env)	£1,200,000	FY23/24
Measured Term Contract Electrical Servicing and Maintenance (Env)	£2,000,000	FY23/24
Measured Term Contract Drainage Inspection and Repair Services (Env)	£800,000	FY23/24
Legionella Inspections and Monitoring Services (Env)	£1,680,000	FY23/24
Fire Doors - Various Education Properties (Env)	£375,000	FY23/24
Measured Term Contract - Small Builders Work (Env)	£900,000	FY23/24
St Josephs - mains water supply (Env)	£90,000	FY23/24
Housing - roof and render 23-24 (Env)	£2,000,000	FY23/24
Supply & Distribution of 240L Wheeled Bins (Env)	£115,000	FY23/24
Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Traffic Signals (Env)	£158,400	FY23/24

Aurs Road Realignment and Upgrade including Installation of Culvert on Behalf of Scottish Water (Env)	£18,000,000	FY23/24
Greenlaw IT Infrastructure (Env)	£54,000	FY23/24
Rail Station Design (Env)	£1,169,000	FY23/24
Rail Station Construction (Env)	£16,000,000	FY23/24
Balgray Links Works (Env)	£3,500,000	FY24/25
Ash Dieback Survey (Env)	£100,000	FY24/25
Small Works Mechanical and Electrical Consultancy Services Framework (Env)	£250,000	FY24/25
Building Management System Controls Maintenance and Servicing (Env)	£400,000	FY24/25
Hydro Boil & Water Heating Servicing (Env)	£120,000	FY24/25
Air Handling Servicing & Maintenance, Kitchen Canopy Cleaning (Env)	£140,000	FY24/25
Mearns Castle HS – Extension (Env)	£2,500,000	FY24/25
Maidenhill PS – Extension (Env)	£2,500,000	FY24/25
Disposal of Roadworks Materials (Env)	£110,000	FY24/25
Waste Regulation POPs/DRS/Circular Economy (Env)	TBC	FY24/25
Groundworks (Env)	£150,000	FY 24/25
Supply And Install Play Equipment/Surfacing (Env)	£304,000	FY24/25
Neilston Leisure Centre, Construction (Env)	£11,000,000	FY24/25

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Eastwood Leisure Centre and Theatre Construction (Env)	£50,000,000	FY24/25
Collect & Recycle or Dispose of Household Waste Recycling Centre Residual Waste – Barrhead (Env)	£325,000	FY24/25
Right to Purchase Post-Consumer Paper, Cardboard and Cartons. (Env)	Rebate	FY24/25
Construction Works Framework (Env)	£20,000,000	FY24/25
Traffic Calming Renewal in Barrhead (Env)	£68,000	FY24/25
A77 Active Travel Phase 2	£1,180,000	FY24/25
Eastwood Package Places For Everyone Stages 0-2 (Env)	£360,112	FY24/25

Appendix 1: Regulated Procurements from Financial Year 2022/2023

Project Title	Project Reference	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date Including Extension	Contract Value Including Extension	Supplier Name
Garden Maintenance & Hedge Trimming 2023/2024	ERC000179	30/04/2023	31/03/2024	£54,694	Caledonian Cleaning
Public Wifi 5	ERC000176	31/03/2023	31/03/2029	£354,180.25	Softcat Plc
Capelrig House - Design Team Appointment - Architect	ERC000172	15/08/2020	12/01/2025	£91,000	Lee Boyd Architects
Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Traffic Signals	ERC000165	07/08/2023	06/08/2027	£654,093.72	Swarco UK Ltd
Technical Audits – Gas Maintenance & Installation	ERC000162	02/07/2023	02/07/2027	£112,800	Argon Technical Ltd
Window Cleaning	ERC000160	18/06/2023	18/06/2027	£111,342	Caledonian maintenance services ltd
HR & Payroll Solution, Support & Maintenance	ERC000159	30/03/2023	18/03/2028	£825,076.82	Softcat Plc
Carer Services	ERC000152	31/03/2023	30/03/2025	£630,000	East Renfrewshire Carers
Social Care Case Management Solutions Software	ERC000146	31/03/2023	30/03/2025	£254,209.32	OLM Systems Ltd
Balgray Connections Active Travel Design	ERC000135	08/05/2023	29/03/2024	£290,641.94	Stantec UK Ltd
Business Gateway Services	ERC000131	10/04/2023	10/04/2026	£328,398.72	CJM Project Financial Management Ltd
Insurance & Claims Handling Framework	ERC000130	31/03/2023	31/03/2028	£6,550,083	Zurich Municipal, Allianz Insurance Plc
Cyber Insurance	ERC000129	31/03/2023	31/03/2024	£50,000	AON

Filemaker Licence renewal	ERC000120	01/02/2023	31/01/2026	£61,710.54	Softcat Plc
Services to Support West Partnership	ERC000118	01/12/2022	30/03/2023	£64,000	University of Glasgow - Robert Owen Centre
Repairs to Play Equipment in Play Areas in East Renfrewshire	ERC000115	13/02/2023	12/02/2025	£180,000	Kompan Scotland Ltd
Measured Term Contract for Asbestos Surveys, Sampling, Analysis and Clearance Procedures	ERC000100	30/03/2023	30/04/2027	£450,000	Environmental Essentials Ltd
Carriageway & Footway Reconstruction/Resurfacing Framework Agreement	ERC000094	24/04/2023	24/04/2027	£17,600,000	JH Civil Engineering Ltd, Maclay Civil Engineering Ltd, Hamilton Tarmac, John Mcgeady Ltd, Newlay Civil Engineering Ltd
Income Management Payment solution	ERC000087	22/09/2022	22/09/2027	£769,860	Civica UK Ltd
IT Service Management system	ERC000085	05/10/2022	05/10/2026	£161,880	Freshworks Ltd
Feasibility Study for River Restoration Works on the Auldhouse & Capelrig Burns	ERC000084	14/11/2022	30/03/2023	£67,340	Aecom Ltd
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (Corporate)	ERC000083	30/09/2022	29/09/2025	£1,761,786	Softcat Plc
Treatment of Organic Waste – Co-mingled Food and Garden Waste	ERC000082	01/11/2022	31/10/2024	£1,842,000	Enva Organics Recycling Ltd
Post-Consumer Waste Glass, Cans and Plastics (Co-mingled)	ERC000081	01/12/2022	30/11/2024	£190,000	Levenseat Ltd
Contact Centre Unified Comms Technology	ERC000078	31/08/2022	30/08/2025	£137,488	Netcall Technology Limited

Taxi Services for ASN	ERC000077	16/08/2022	16/02/2023	£74,100	Various
Ash Dieback Survey	ERC000073	30/09/2022	29/09/2024	£64,505	Ayrshire Tree Surgeons
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (Education)	ERC000071	31/08/2022	30/08/2025	£463,104	Softcat Plc
Man Guarding & Fire Alarm Response & Key Holding Services	ERC000069	21/07/2022	23/07/2026	£380,000	Profile Security Services Ltd
VMware Licensing	ERC000065	31/07/2022	30/07/2025	£1,080,44	Softcat Plc
Immutable Back up solution	ERC000064	07/09/2022	08/03/2024	£139,725	Softcat Plc
Lighting and Control Equipment	ERC000063	03/02/2023	31/05/2023	£130,567	Black Light Ltd
Banking Services	ERC000060	01/11/2022	31/10/2030	£184,072	Clydesdale Bank Plc
Electronic Care Monitoring, Scheduling Solution	ERC000058	10/07/2022	10/07/2026	£725,570	Total Mobile Ltd
2 Rack Footprint / Cold Aisle Containment	ERC000057	30/06/2022	29/06/2024	£88,249	Iomart Group Plc
HPE Server Hardware	ERC000052	02/08/2022	03/11/2022	£109,681	XMA Limited
Personal Protective Work Wear including Pandemic Recovery Products	ERC000049	01/01/2023	31/12/2026	£420,398	ARCO Limited
Access & Design Masterplan - Newton Mearns Public Realm -Consultancy	ERC000045	28/08/2022	13/03/2023	£136,903	Raeburn Farquhar Bowen
Active Panels & Projectors	ERC000044	31/05/2022	29/06/2022	£71,627	SSUK

Containers for Street Cleaning Arisings & Subsequent Recycling / Disposal of Gully Arisings	ERC000038	21/08/2022	21/08/2024	£238,400	J & M Murdoch & Son Ltd
Roads Costing & Time Manager	ERC000036	30/06/2022	30/06/2029	£120,000	Softcat Plc
Supply, Servicing and Maintenance of Hand Held Fire Fighting Equipment	ERC000126	01/05/2023	01/05/2027	£160,000	Firepoint Limited
Home Safely Services	ERC000088	01/12/2022	30/11/2026	£123,684	Voluntary Action
Online Interactive Learning Platform	ERC000070	01/08/2022	30/07/2026	£56,000	Softcat Plc
Online Payment for Schools	ERC000048	31/05/2022	30/05/2024	£74,852	Parentpay Limited
Footway & Cycle Path Works	ERC000041	01/11/2022	31/10/2026	£2,000,000	Hillhouse t/a Macasphalt, Luddon Construction Ltd, John McGeady Ltd, Newlay Civil Engineering Ltd, J H Civil
Roads & Lighting Asset Management	ERC000037	30/06/2022	30/06/2026	£99,960	WDM Limited

Appendix 2: Community Benefits from Financial Year 2022/2023

Community Benefit	Wish List Item	Requested by	Delivered by	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 new job In kind support for Social Blend Hub build including provision of defibrillator and £2000 towards bike hub 	No	Include Me 2	Pro Cast	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School support, wish list, mentoring 	Yes	Schools, Work East Ren	Valley Group	Underway
Recruitment of Modern Apprentice from within ERC	Yes	Work East Ren	GKL Plumbing	Underway
Supplier development and school events	No	Schools, Economic Development	Hub West	Underway
<p>New Entrant – Employed from Priority Group – apprentice plumber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employed New Entrant – no relevant experience – Labourer Employed New Entrant – Apprenticeship Work Experience Placement (16+ Years of Age) Careers Events – Barrhead HS/Isobel Mair/Work East Ren/Mearns Castle/Barrhead HS Supply chain briefing with SMEs including Micro-Businesses - Held open day Non-financial support for a community project – wish list £1000 per cause. 	Yes	Work East Ren, Schools	City Gate Construction	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donated bunting to install in Neilston village before and during Neilson Agricultural Show. 2000m of bunting at a cost of £1360.00. 	Yes	Neilston Show	Inverweld	Complete
Sidey have committed to deliver 10 items from the wish list over their contract. So far:- Donation to Incredible Edibles, East Renfrewshire Back to School Bank and East Renfrewshire Good Causes.	Yes	Incredible Edibles, East Renfrewshire Back to School Bank and East Renfrewshire Good Causes.	Sidey	Underway
School donations and DYW support £1000 per cause.	No	Mearns Castle HS and Isobel Mair	Allsports Construction & Maintenance Ltd	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 new jobs or apprenticeships to be created and 	Yes	Neilston Primary	Heron Bro	Underway

<p>recruited via Work East Ren employability service in the first instance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DYW support at Neilston PS and associated High Schools • Engagement with Work East Ren Get into Construction Course • Attendance at Work East Ren jobs fair • Various community initiatives including support for Incredible Edibles, sponsorship of school football team, donation of time/labour towards Pig Square regeneration – over £8,000. 		<p>St Thomas Primary Education Dept Work East Ren Incredible Edibles Economic Development</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruited via Work East Ren, • 1 work placement • Attended local supplier event, • £2,000 support towards Dunterlie Allotments • School Engagement 	Yes	<p>Work East Ren Economic Development Dunterlie Allotments Carolside PS Barrhead HS</p>	AmcoGiffen	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted Recruitment and Employment – engaging with Work East Ren regarding apprenticeships/jobs • Schools financial education programme 	No	<p>Work East Ren Various Schools</p>	Clydesdale Bank Exchange	Underway
<p>Donation to Work East Ren to support HGV training - client secured job - £4,000</p>	Yes	<p>Work East Ren</p>	Newlay Civil Engineering Ltd	Complete
<p>Provide personal care and cleaning supplies to foodbank to the value of £4025</p>	No	<p>East Renfrewshire Foodbank</p>	Unico	Complete
<p>Provision of arts and crafts materials and toys £500</p>	Yes	<p>Dunterlie Childrens group</p>	YPO	Complete



PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

2023 - 2026

Updated September 2023



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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

This document updates the Council's current procurement strategy which was first published in 2017 and has been updated to cover the period April 2023 to March 2026. The strategy seeks to build on progress to date, capture and build on expertise and examples of best practice which are available within the Council, locally and nationally from the public, private and third sectors.

Section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires any public organisation, which has an estimated total value of regulated procurement spend of £5 million or more (excluding VAT) in a financial year, to prepare and publish a Procurement Strategy.

This Procurement Strategy sets out the vision, objectives and actions which will govern procurement activities for East Renfrewshire Council for the period 2023-2026.

The Council's key procurement objectives reflect both national and local policies and our aim is to build on our procurement model and Category Management approach to deliver strategic procurement outcomes for the Council by focusing improvement on five key procurement aims:

- Legal Compliance and Governance
- Economic Growth, Environmental, Social and Sustainability
- Strategic Procurement to deliver Best Value & Continuous Improvement
- Performance Reporting to drive performance & support savings delivery
- Contract & Supplier Management

This strategy will ensure Procurement supports our Services to deliver efficiently and effectively, adding value and professional expertise whilst ensuring compliance with procurement legislation.

Throughout the period of this strategy we will review and report upon our performance through our Annual Procurement Report.

SECTION 2 THE LOCAL EAST RENFREWSHIRE CONTEXT

East Renfrewshire Council is committed to improving the lives of local people, promoting equality and fairness, and enhancing the area in which we live, now and for the future. Our procurement focus is on delivering better outcomes for all our customers and residents across East Renfrewshire, while managing the significant challenge of increasingly complex local service demands against a backdrop of decreasing public sector funding.

In this challenging climate, exacerbated by Brexit, COVID-19 and the global impact of conflict in Russia and Ukraine we will focus on working closely with our supply chains to ensure vital front line services continue to be delivered by working smarter, more resourceful, and find innovative solutions to meet the challenges ahead.

The Council spends over £130m on supplies, services and works. This sum is governed by the legislative framework which includes:

Directives
 Regulations including Scottish Procurement Policy Notes
 Case Law
 Council Standing Orders Relating to Contracts
 Financial Regulations

SECTION 3 PROCUREMENT VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

The following Procurement Vision and Mission Statement has been developed to support the Councils vision for the future, while continuing to maximise procurement opportunities that enable and support continuous improvement and the delivery of best value.

Our Vision for Procurement in East Renfrewshire is:

To grow the strategic influence of procurement across the Council through respected and professional expertise, fostering positive relationships which ultimately deliver innovative, sustainable and compliant practices which provide best and added value for the organisation.

Our Mission Statement is:

The procurement team will provide an efficient and effective procurement service that delivers value for money, continuous improvement and savings where possible from all goods, works and services required. We will support the Councils strategic vision and aims by providing quality advice to deliver lawful contracts that include but are not limited to community benefits, sustainability, social value, economic recovery, net zero.

SECTION 4 STRATEGY RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

East Renfrewshire Council's vision for the future is to be a "modern, ambitious Council creating a fairer future with all and our ultimate aim is to make people's lives better". The Council has 5 Strategic Outcomes where we are working across East Renfrewshire to achieve best Outcomes for:

- Early Years and Vulnerable Young People
- Learning, Life and Work
- Environment and Economy
- Safe, Supportive Communities
- Older People and People with Long-Term Conditions

The Council also has outcomes relating to Customer, Efficiency and People which are captured under the Strategic Outcome "Our Council is forward thinking and high performing". Procurement has an important role to contribute to the following:

- Customer: Satisfied customers access services that meet their needs
- Efficiency: Our physical, information and financial assets are efficiently managed
- People: We have engaged employees who are motivated to deliver our outcomes

In order to deliver on these Strategic Outcomes, 5 Capabilities have been identified to provide the necessary skills required. These are:

- Prevention
- Empowering Communities
- Data
- Modernisation
- Digital

Procurement can play an important role in supporting services to deliver against the Council's Strategic Outcomes and provide key skills contributing to the 5 Capabilities as detailed below:

Prevention – we will collaborate with Services across the Council with a focus on preventing poor outcomes for our residents and providing planned rather than reactive services. We will seek to maximise opportunities for collaboration and using an evidence based approach to designing services.

Community Engagement – we will achieve best value for the communities and people we service by utilising innovative approaches to engage our communities and to prioritise the allocation of resources. We will explore ways in which contractors, commissioned partners and communities can work in partnership with us to deliver outcomes.

Data and Evidence – we will utilise spend data, market analysis and build positive relationships and networks with key stakeholders to ensure an evidence based approach to strategic procurement and identifying efficiencies.

Modernising How We Work - we will focus on modernising our processes to avoid unnecessary approvals, duplication and manual processes. We will ensure Procurement meets the current and future needs of the Council and greater focus will be placed on Contract and Supplier Management to ensure best value is achieved from our contracts throughout their lifecycle.

Digital – we will harness the potential from the Council's core systems and ensure that the full purchase to pay processes throughout the Council are modern, digital and efficient.

The Council's previous Procurement Strategy 2019/22 was closely aligned with the Council vision and requirements of the Scottish Government. This delivered a number of achievements, including:

- Procurement activities undertaken in accordance with the applicable procurement legislation, the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and where appropriate following any best practice guidance issued by the Scottish Government;
- Procurement compliance, visibility and transparency embedded;
- Participation on national and regional strategic working groups including those hosted by Scotland Excel, Scottish Procurement, City Deal and Crown Commercial Services;
- Development and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures to ensure the team work to common principles and rules, but outputs are tailored to meet the needs of the specific category, reflecting the service area, stakeholder needs and the marketplace to ensure best value achieved;
- Procurement Contract Strategy and peer review for all goods, works and services ensuring an independent focus for lessons learned and shared in order to deliver continuous improvement in procurement activities;
- Continuous review of spend and use of Public Contract Scotland portals including PCS-Tender to issue contract opportunities online in a secure and efficient manner for suppliers;
- Design and implementation of a central online contracts register simplifying how data is recorded and reported to support contract management and decision making.

SECTION 5 - STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Procurement Strategy 2023-2026 has the following aims which support the Scottish Governments programme to '*deliver procurement that improves public services for a prosperous, fairer and more sustainable Scotland*':

- Legal Compliance and Governance
- Economic Growth, Environmental, Social and Sustainability
- Strategic Procurement to Deliver Best Value & continuous Improvement
- Performance Reporting to Drive Performance & Support Savings Delivery
- Contract & Supplier Management

The following section details the aims, actions and expected impact from this focused approach:

LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNANCE
<p>Aim: Ensure procurement procedures reflect developments in legislation and government guidance and support stakeholders to mitigate risk and deliver compliant contracts providing probity of Council spending.</p>
<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the statutory and legislative requirements derived from The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and The Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations. • Ensure procurement activities reflect and support the Councils Strategic Outcomes. • Take advantage of aspects of the procurement legislation that provide procurement with greater flexibility and scope to deliver best value from Procurement activity. • Develop and maintain standard operating procedures to ensure common principles, rules and toolkits are applied. • Implement training and development opportunities for procurement in line with our benchmark against the national Procurement Development Framework. • Develop and deliver a focused programme of procurement training across the Council. • Consult and engage with stakeholders throughout the procurement lifecycle, to ensure our procurements properly reflect need.
<p>How we will do it and Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the Council from exposure to challenge or legal action by demonstrating ownership and accountability within procurement activities, with structured governance and assurance, to ensure clear, timely and auditable decision making. • Adapt our internal procedures, processes and documentation, where required to reflect the most up to date requirements. • The procurement team will have the skills and capability required to meet the current and future needs of the Council. • Support training and development of project leads, specification writers, contract and supplier managers to maintain and raise standards in procurement activities. • Build on expertise within service areas ensuring lessons are learned and shared, in order to ensure continuous improvement in our procurement activities. • Work with Legal services to review and improve East Renfrewshire Council standard contract terms.

Progress Update September 2023

- Procurement have continued to support supply chain resilience by working proactively with our suppliers and key partners to closely monitor the impact and recovery of Covid-19, Brexit and other global events on economic recovery, market pricing and availability.
- We have provided user friendly procurement processes and plain English Standard Operating Procedures for all employees involved in the procurement process.
- We continually review current documentation and develop new content when required.
- Contract Standing Orders is currently being updated in response to new procurement legislation or Scottish Procurement Policy Notes.
- As standard working practice we carry out an Annual non-compliant spend analysis to identify spend that is to be subject to a competitive procurement exercise.
- Category Management model used to work with service teams to award compliant contracts.
- All elements of the contract strategy and tender process are reviewed and appropriately authorised to ensure legal compliance and delivery of best value.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY

Aim: Compliance with our legislative and statutory procurement duties as well as consideration of areas such as living wage, circular economy, whole life costing, community health and wellbeing and early involvement of SMEs, Social Enterprises, Supported Businesses and Third Sector.

Actions

- Ensure compliance with the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 in relation to the Sustainable Procurement Duty.
- Embed sustainability in all regulated procurement activities including consideration of Fair Work First Principles, Equalities, Community Benefits, promoting payment of the Living Wage, Prompt Payment in the Supply Chain, Circular Economy initiatives and Whole Life Costing.
- Design whenever we can, each procurement in a way that encourages participation from SMEs, Third Sector and Supported Businesses to develop our local communities social, environmental and economic wellbeing.
- Promote to internal services the benefits of sustainable procurement and the use of the Scottish Governments Sustainability Toolkit and eLearning modules.
- Work closely with Economic Development on Community Wealth Building, harnessing our spending power to buy more locally where possible.
- Provide support, advice and sign posting to local businesses improving their ability to respond to procurement activities and also their economic recovery.
- Work closely with the Get to Net Zero Team to identify opportunities within our procurement work plan to contribute to the Councils Action Plan.

How we will do it and Impact

- SME's, Third Sector, Social Enterprises, Supported Businesses and the local business community will be supported with advice and guidance enabling them to engage commercially with the Council.
- Support services to utilise the Scottish Governments sustainable procurement tools, prioritisation assessment, sustainability test and life cycle mapping.
- Optimise the Community Benefits process by working more closely with relevant internal stakeholders and placing greater emphasis on ensuring benefits for East Renfrewshire residents are delivered.
- Training and awareness sessions for internal stakeholders on sustainable procurement with emphasis on the application of circular economy, whole life costing, early involvement of SMEs, Social Enterprises, Supported Businesses and Third Sector organisations.
- Consider sub-dividing tenders into lots, giving consideration for local businesses, SMEs, Third Sector Organisations and Supported Businesses.
- Increasing 'Meet the Buyer' events, workshops and awareness of contract opportunities.
- Explore the use of faster payment options for small businesses.
- Apply the Fair Work First criteria into all relevant tender activities.
- Include in all relevant tender activities Living Wage criteria to increase the number of socially responsible businesses delivering Council contracts.
- If the market allows for it, for goods/services under £50,000 and for works under £2million, SMEs and local suppliers will be invited to bid for these contracts.
- Simplify tender documents where possible to ensure the procurement process is proportionate and easy to navigate.

Progress Update September 2023

- Procurement have continued to work closely with service teams to develop contract strategy for each exercise and explore topics including – supply market analysis, supplier readiness to respond, sustainability, community benefits, fair work, prompt payment.
- We carry out early market engagement to encourage bid participation and increase competition.
- We are working with Local suppliers and partnering bodies to improve awareness and engagement in tendering activities – Meet the Buyer and Local Events.
- We are developing a local supplier database to maximise opportunities and local spend.
- We run mini-competitions and use lotting in tenders where possible to encourage smaller suppliers to bid.
- Procurement have supported an e-Invoicing project to streamline purchase to pay process for suppliers.
- We carry out pre-market engagement with suppliers and service users to help develop strategy and specification to ensure better contracts are delivered.
- Procurement are working in partnership with Scotland Excel and Economic Development to adopt a Community Wealth Building approach to progressive procurement
- Sustainability procurement policy in place and all aspects of sustainable procurement maximised in appropriate contracts
- Procurement continue to apply relevant and proportionate criteria to technical scoring to ensure environmental impacts are considered appropriately in tender activities.

STRATEGIC PROCUREMENT TO DELIVER BEST VALUE & CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Aim: To deliver a strategic procurement service by working closely with key stakeholders supporting the Council budget savings and driving a commercial focus across the organisation.

Actions

- Work closely with departments to identify opportunities and challenge current models of delivery by being involved in conversations from the outset.
- Challenge the demand for goods and services and seek to rationalise core requirements where possible.
- Category Managers trained and developed to their maximum potential, thereby offering a more strategic and commercial approach to procurement activities.
- Category Managers increasing their commodity knowledge through building relationships and taking advantage of collaboration and networking opportunities.
- Council representation on key local, regional and national working groups including those hosted by Scotland Excel and Scottish Procurement.
- Increasing use of spend data analysis, market awareness and benchmarking to design innovative and competitive tenders.
- Ensure all procurement activity is carried out in a transparent, consistent and accountable manner, in accordance with procurement legislation and the Councils internal governance.
- Review spend data to identify opportunities for savings and identify off-contract spend Work with services to ensure compliant contracts are put in place
- Improve purchase to pay processes to strengthen controls, increase efficiency and provide useful information to key stakeholders.
- Continue to improve procurement performance across the Council as measured by the Scottish Government's Procurement & Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP).
- Use the Scottish Government Procurement Competency Framework to establish the skills and competency levels required to fulfill the procurement team roles, identify where training is required and opportunities for in team coaching and mentoring.
- Review and update the Councils Contract Standing Orders to ensure that changes to Public Contracts Regulations are included.

Impact

- Procurement team will work with services to ensure we hold an accurate current and future tender pipeline to enable efficient allocation of procurement resources.
- Procurement will continue to develop and improve the Council's procurement processes and support their adoption across the Council.
- Increase the capability of services to think and act commercially by working together.
- Strong supplier relationships and market awareness through adoption of the Councils Contract and Supplier Management model.
- Procurement will have the tools, knowledge and skills required to support innovative procurement solutions and provide added value to Services.
- Ensure the Council meets the requirements of the procurement Regulations and the fundamental principles of non-discrimination, transparency and proportionality.
- Procurement will drive innovation and best practice.
- Procurement will collaborate across the sector where possible to maximise opportunities and share best practice.

Progress Update September 2023

- Improved Stakeholder Relationships in place from regular meetings to ensure improved understanding of the procurement pipeline and to manage the capacity of the service effectively.
- All elements of the contract strategy and tender process are reviewed and appropriately authorised to ensure legal compliance and delivery of best value.
- We continue to be represented on and attend a number of internal and external forums.
- Procurement have undertaken detailed reviews of services and have led on projects to identify opportunities for savings and improved practice.
- Continual analysis of spend data ensuring informed decisions on how procurement activity within the organisation can be improved.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING TO DRIVE PERFORMANCE AND SUPPORT SAVINGS DELIVERY

Aim: To use an evidenced based approach to provide visibility of key performance information which supports informed decision making around the current and future direction of Procurement.

Actions

- Develop and maintain the online central contracts register which is to be used across the Council.
- Preparation of the Annual Procurement Report and annual strategy update.
- Production of reports and dashboards to support relationships with Services leading to an increased focus on demand management.
- Monitoring of contract activity including performance, issues and risks.
- Continue to utilise the procurement Intranet page to communicate information across the Council.
- Monitor and report on the use of the procurement module of the Finance and Procurement system to strengthen proper use across the Council.
- Respond to local and national reporting requirements.
- Contract Strategy documents will be used for all tendering activities to allow reporting on procurement decisions.

Impact

- A robust process for savings capture and a full organisational awareness of the value provided by Procurement.
- Digital tools in place to support ease of access and interrogation of contract information, spend data and market analysis.
- Increased awareness across Services of spend information and how to use this to inform and understanding of demand management and decision making.
- Procurement will support services to use collaboratively developed national and sectoral systems and best practice tools to exploit sustainable outcomes and support national reporting

Progress Update September 2023

- Embedded process in place for the tracking of benefits from procurement activity with a number of savings opportunities presented to the Corporate Management Team for implementation.
- Embedded corporate Online Contracts Register in use and training delivered across the Council to ensure all departments access and maximise its use.
- Support contract strategy stage by undertaking benchmarking exercises to understand costs and identify most economically advantageous route to market.
- Support services to review collaborative contracts with other Councils, Scottish Government, Scotland Excel and approved bodies to generate value and buying power to drive costs down.

CONTRACT AND SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT

Aim: Support services to take a proactive approach to contract and supplier management to achieve innovation and value for the Council and our residents.

Actions

- Procurement will provide a formalised method of monitoring supplier performance against contract requirements.
- Procurement will ensure there is clarity of roles and responsibilities by all parties relating to contract and supplier management.
- Support services to determine the level of management required based on size, value and risk of the organisation to help determine the frequency of supplier review meetings.
- Support services to monitor contract compliance against the terms of the contract and step in if contract failure is identified.
- Procurement will refine and continually review and update standard documentation in line with best practice across the public sector.
- Procurement will support services to realise estimated and planned savings to be captured through proactive contract and supplier management.
- Procurement will facilitate events to support suppliers to get tender ready and give them awareness of contract and supplier management requirements.

Impact

- Consistent approach adopted by using standardised agenda, minutes, action notes
- Adoption of standard balanced scorecard for measuring supplier performance which sets targets and includes a red, amber, green status indicator.
- Regular reviews of all high value and high risk suppliers to monitor contract performance, improve output, identify savings and transfer of knowledge.
- Suppliers will be encouraged to engage with local supply base and SME's through community benefit contract clauses.
- Supplier performance will be clearly documented to support lessons learned and to inform subsequent procurements for similar commodities in the future.
- Delivery of financial and non-financial benefits.

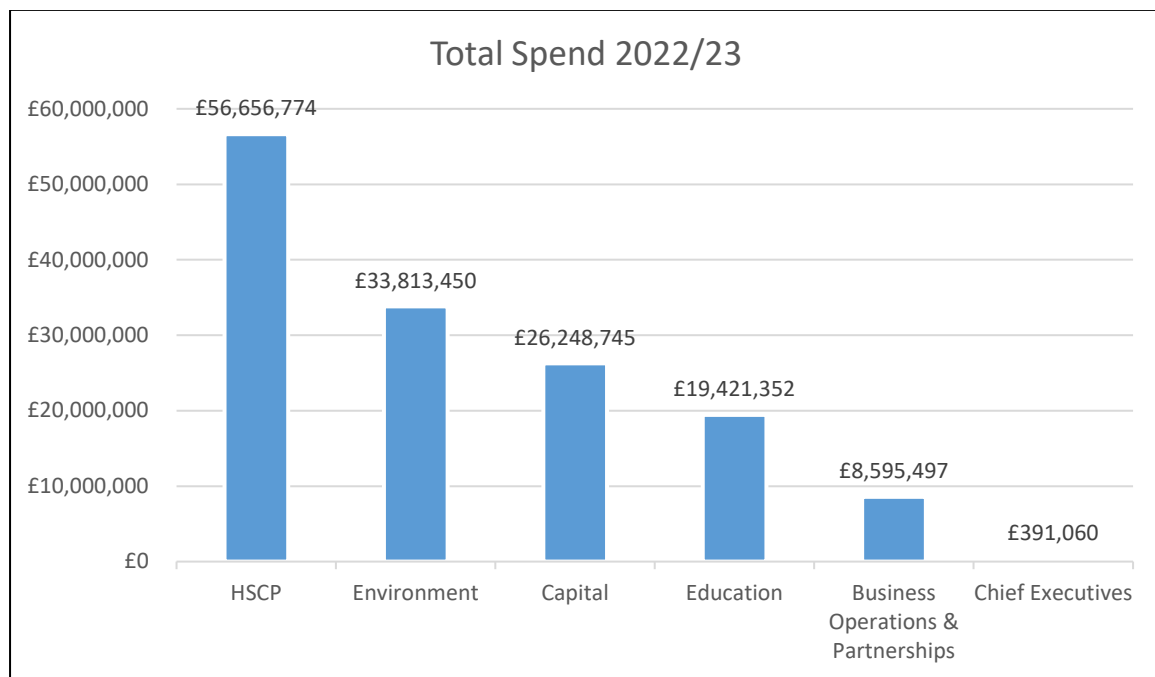
Progress Update September 2023

- Corporate model and standardised template documents in place to monitor supplier performance against contract requirements
- All services supported to segment contracts to identify high value, high risk for monitoring.
- All services trained providing clarity of roles and responsibilities to ensure economic and social value is continually driven from contracts
- Procurement Intranet pages updated with user focused documents to support officers involved in contract and supplier management
- Procurement continue to support services to realise estimated and planned savings to be captured through proactive contract and supplier management.
- Continually review and update standard template documents in line with best practice across the Public Sector

SECTION 6 FINANCE

The procurement of goods, works and services in the Council is varied and ranges from low value low risk purchases to high value and complex procurements for the construction of infrastructure and buildings. In 2022/23 the Council spend on procured goods and services by Directorate is detailed in the table below.

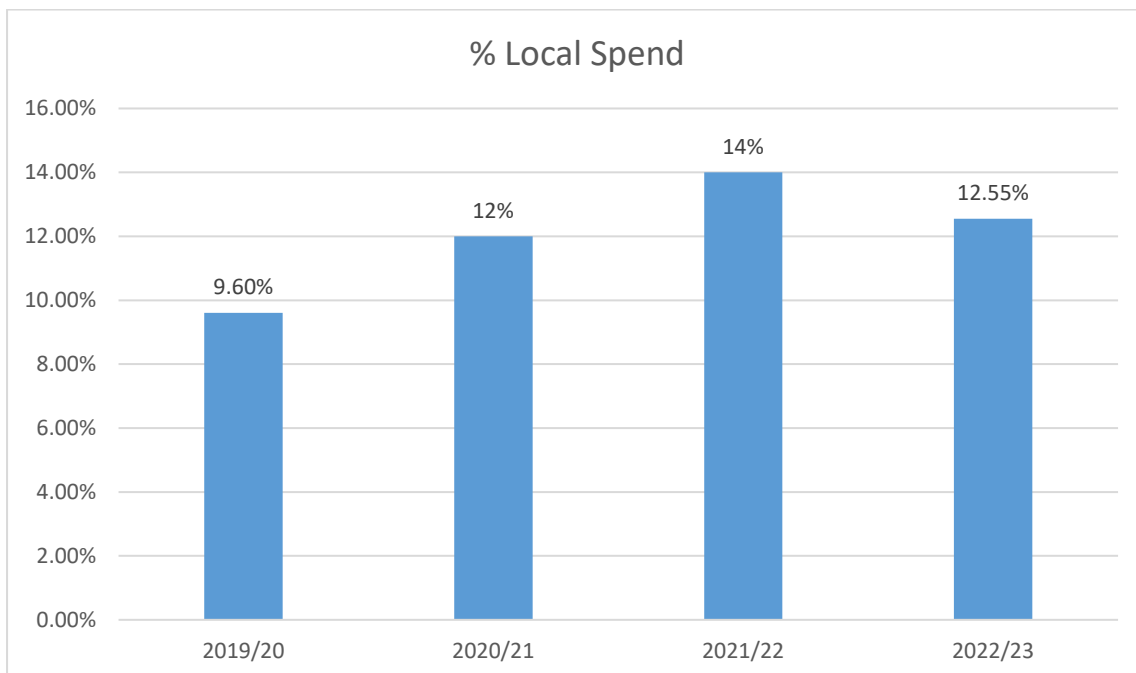
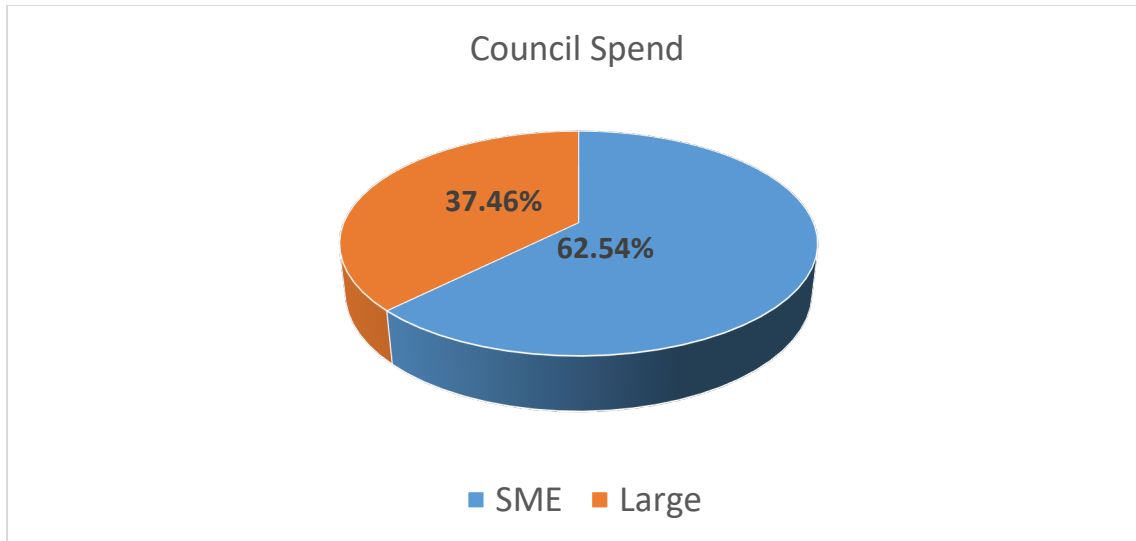
Goods and services is defined as receivable goods including but not limited to deliverables, supplies, equipment or commodities and services including assembling, labour, installation, training, inspection, maintenance and repairs. Works is defined as a contract including but not limited to building, construction, fabrication, completion, erection, fitting out, modification, renovation and alteration



It is the role of Procurement to support activities which encourage and provide opportunities for businesses located in the East Renfrewshire Council area and particularly Small to Medium Enterprises (SME's). Work in this area includes the Annual Meet the Buyer and local supplier engagement activities to support bidders to get Tender and Quick Quote ready.

Data from the Scottish Procurement Information Hub shows in 2022/23 Council spend was £16m with businesses who are located in East Renfrewshire which is an increase of £5.5m from 2019/20.

Data shows that 62.54% of East Renfrewshire Council spend was with SME's.



The joint work underway in Procurement and Economic Development should support getting the local percentage up for the next reporting period. This Strategy will see a continued focus on improvement in this area.

The Council has implemented core systems which provide significant benefits to Procurement, with the ability to provide a greater level of interrogation and analysis of spend data. These systems will also allow us to improve our internal processes and reporting as well as allow to work with Services to exploit opportunities for innovative approaches and greater efficiencies in service deliver. Procurement remain extensively involved in the specification of the procurement elements of new systems and it is vital that their full functionality is harnessed to allow more detailed reporting of performance of this Strategy going forward.

SECTION 7 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING

Duties under The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 require the Council to develop and review the Procurement Strategy annually. In addition to this mandatory Procurement Strategy and to meet regulatory requirements, the Council must also prepare and publish an Annual Procurement Report disclosing how its procurement activity has complied with its published procurement strategy.

The Procurement Reform Act (Scotland 2014) lists the minimum requirements that an Annual Procurement Report should contain and advises that the report must include:

- A summary of the regulated procurements for the financial year and of the regulated procurements the authority expects to commence in the next two financial years;
- A review of whether procurements have complied with the contracting authority's procurement strategy;
- A summary of any community benefit requirements imposed as part of a regulated procurement and any steps taken to facilitate the involvement of supported businesses in regulated procurement

Procurement will next publish the Council's Annual Report for 2022/23 in October 2023 and this will also include an update on work achieved under this Procurement Strategy.

In addition to these internal procedures for the monitoring, reviewing and reporting on the Procurement Strategy the Council's procurement performance is also subject to Procurement and Commercial Improvement Programme assessments (PCIP). Successful implementation of the Procurement Strategy will put East Renfrewshire Council in a strong position for further improvement in the next round of PCIP assessments.

The Council will publish this Procurement Strategy on our website, and will notify Scottish Ministers of the publication of our strategy.

SECTION 8 PROCEDURES, POLICIES & PROCUREMENT TOOLS

The Council operates against a backdrop of policies and procedures to aid the delivery of Council activity in compliance with legislation and with local and national policies. The Council relies on the following Procedures, Policies and Procurement Tools to support its procurement activities:

Procedures

As a contracting authority, East Renfrewshire Council must make arrangements to ensure the proper conduct of business, including conformance to standards of good governance and accountability with regard to procurement.

To ensure Procurement Strategy key objectives are delivered effectively, there remains a continuing need to recognise the requirement for and execution of an appropriate Council governance framework.

The presence of this framework will enable key objectives to be achieved through a decision making process which ensures appropriate approvals are in place.

In adhering to this governance framework, the Council ensures that its regulated procurements are carried out in compliance with its duty to treat relevant economic operators equally and without discrimination and that these procurements will be undertaken in compliance with its duty to act in a transparent and proportionate manner.

In maintaining this governance framework, the Council will ensure that a continuing focus remains in relation to updating, and appropriately applying the following procedural governance documents;

Contract Standing Orders

The Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts set out how contracts for all goods, services and works will be made by the Council.

The purpose of these Standing Orders is to ensure that contracts are appropriate for their purpose, provide the right balance between price and quality, and are procured in an open way that demonstrates probity and compliance with the Council's policies.

The Standing Orders are applied having regard always to equal treatment, non-discrimination, proportionality and transparency. All Council employees must treat tenderers equally and without discrimination and act in a transparent and proportionate manner at all times.

The Standing Orders also set out the Council's obligations in ensuring that the suppliers and service providers it contracts with comply with all statutory requirements in respect of ensuring equal opportunity in employment under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and with all current Health and Safety legislation and approved Codes of Practice, as may be applicable to the contract. Promotion of this compliance is in line with the requirements of the Procurement Reform (Scotland Act) 2014.

East Renfrewshire Council Standing Orders Relating to Contracts

<https://intranet.erc.insider/search?q=contract+standing+orders&go=Go&returnarticleid=1&articleaction=newsearch>

Financial Regulations

The Council's Financial Regulations set out the framework for managing the Council's financial affairs. They seek to ensure that the Council conducts its affairs in a way that complies with legislation, accepted accounting procedures and professional good practice.

The Council's Financial Regulations apply to every employee of the Council or anyone acting on its behalf. All employees have a responsibility to provide for the security of assets under their control, and for ensuring that the use of these resources is legal, properly authorised, and provides Best Value.

East Renfrewshire Council Financial Regulations

<http://intranet.erc.insider/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11444&p=0>

Scheme of Delegation

The Scheme of Delegation is intended to facilitate the effective undertaking of Council business by clearly setting out the nature and extent of the powers delegated to officers by the Council, in order to ensure an efficient running of day to day operations and to allow the Council to carry out its functions and achieve its Strategic Objectives.

The Council's approach to delegation has been influenced by its commitment to facilitate participation in the decision making process and to delegate to Chief Officers. The result is that the Council has reserved very few powers to itself and has agreed extensive delegations to officers.

Policies

The Council has clear Strategic Objectives set out within the Outcome Delivery Plan and a strong focus on monitoring and reporting performance. The Strategic Objectives are supported by each Service through their individual Service and Improvement Plans.

To further ensure that the Council's regulated procurements contribute to the carrying out of its functions and the achievement of its purposes, this Procurement Strategy, in line with its Key Objectives, will be delivered in accordance with the Outcome Delivery Plan, the individual Service and Improvement Plans and a set of national and local policies and strategies. These are embedded within existing procurement processes.

Sustainable Procurement Policy

The Council's approach to sustainable procurement is rooted within the procurement process to promote a commitment to sustainability and achievement of Best Value for the Council. In an ongoing effort to embed sustainability issues in procurement exercises, three strands of sustainability are explored at the contract strategy stage; environmental, social and economic factors along with a consideration on how the Council can facilitate the involvement of SMEs, third sector bodies and supported businesses in procurement exercises, as well as a promotion of innovation in the design and delivery of services. Full details of the Council's approach to Sustainable Procurement are incorporated in our Sustainable Procurement Policy which was approved in 2020.

Community Benefit Requirements – The Council will adhere to all statutory guidance and legislation on the use of Community Benefits, ensuring that all regulated procurements include Community Benefits clauses where relevant. This policy reflects East Renfrewshire Council's approach to sustainable procurement. A new process has been implemented to further enhance the identification and capture of Community Benefits which is supported by a Community "wish list" to identify local priorities. It is applied to all contracts for works, goods or services in which the Council has an interest.

Living Wage

Whilst there are no legal restrictions on requiring payment of the living wage, suppliers are encouraged to pay the living wage to their employees. The fair working practices question that promotes a healthy, happy and motivated workforce is included in all appropriate contracts.

The Council follows the lead of the Scottish Government by promoting the payment of the Living Wage to persons involved in fulfilling procurement requirements by considering, where relevant and proportionate, when Fair Working Practices should be addressed in contracting opportunities. The Council will comply with the Statutory Guidance on the Selection of Tenderers and Award of Contracts – Addressing Fair Work Practices, including the Living Wage, in Procurement.

Led by Procurement, the Council became an accredited Living Wage employer in November 2020.

Fair Work First

East Renfrewshire Council is also committed to applying the seven Fair Work First criteria internally and in publicly funded supply chains. Fair Work First is the Scottish Government's policy for driving good quality and fair work in Scotland. Through this approach, East Renfrewshire Council is asking bidders to describe how they are committed to progressing towards adopting and how they intend to continue embedding the five Fair Work First criteria:

- appropriate channels for effective voice, such as trade union recognition
- investment in workforce development
- no inappropriate use of zero hours contracts
- action to tackle the gender pay gap and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace
- providing fair pay for workers (for example, [payment of the real Living Wage](#))
- offer flexible and family friendly working practices for all workers from day one of employment
- oppose the use of fire and rehire practices

In order to ensure the highest standards of service quality in this contract we expect suppliers to commit to progressing towards adopting the five Fair Work First criteria in the delivery of contracts as part of a fair and equitable employment and reward package as a route to progressing towards wider fair work practices.

Modern Slavery

The Council has adopted the Charter Against Modern Slavery which addresses modern slavery in the supply chain. The Council will focus attention on the key areas of Training and Awareness Raising, Tender Documentation, Ensuring Compliance and Reporting.

Health and Safety

The Council ensures that appropriate health and safety requirements are included in the evaluation for all its procurements, in line with all the relevant legislation. Thus ensuring that successful suppliers are fulfilling their legal obligations.

Prompt Payment in the Supply Chain

The Council shall comply with late payment legislation, which places a statutory duty on all public bodies to pay commercial debt within 30 calendar days of receipt of a valid invoice.

Consulting and Engaging with Stakeholders

The Council continues to consult and engage with those affected by our procurement activities through the development of contract strategies, in advance of the procurement exercise and through our focus on identifying opportunities for collaborative Contract and Supplier Management. Liaison during both the development and feedback stages of projects, ensuring that all opinion and feedback is considered when resulting agreements are implemented and executed, ensures continuous improvement in the delivery of services and allows the Council to understand the impact of our procurement activity. The Council is currently assessing options for a corporate approach to Contract and Supplier Management which will ensure the Council receives value expected from contractual relationships, mitigate risks of failure and encourage innovation.

Animal Welfare

The Council recognises the requirement to find practical ways to supply healthy, fresh, seasonal, and sustainably grown food which represents Best Value whilst improving the health, wellbeing and education of communities in our area. Through Procurement's collaboration with our internal stakeholders and with Scotland Excel, the Centre of Procurement Expertise for Scotland's local government sector, we will work to put in place affordable contracts which meet the nutritional requirements for food, for all users of our catering services, whilst promoting the highest standards of animal welfare, in accordance with all statutory guidance and legislation. The Council is committed to including requirements that promote animal welfare in all relevant contracts. The Council will work with Scotland Excel to ensure that the contracts the Council are participating in promote the highest standards of animal welfare.

Fairly and ethically traded good and services

For each regulated procurement exercise, at the contract strategy development stage, consideration will be given to the sourcing of goods and services that are ethically traded. In line with the Council's Strategy and where ethically traded goods and services are available, the Council will work with all relevant stakeholders and take a Best Value approach when applying fair and ethically trading principles in procurement activities.

A number of other policies are relevant to or impact on the Council's procurement activities. These include:

- Gifts, hospitality and other inducements
- Conflicts of interest declaration
- Suppliers charter
- Council Health & Safety Policy
- Glasgow City Region City Deal Procurement Strategy
- Glasgow City Region City Deal Sustainable Procurement Policy

Procurement Tools

Key tools that the Council has embedded into the procurement process, which help contribute to compliance with the mandatory requirements under the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, are detailed below.

- [Procurement Journey](#)
- [Public Contracts Scotland](#)
- [Public Contracts Scotland – Tender](#)
- [Scottish Procurement Information Hub](#)

National policies, legislation, and tools relating to the Scottish Government's reform programme which help drive best practice, deliver savings and improve the procurement capability can be found by clicking the following links (this is not an exhaustive list):

- [Procurement Reform Update \(SPPN 1/2016\)](#)
- [Scottish Model of Procurement](#)
- [Changes to European Directives](#)
- [Public Procurement Reform Programme](#)
- [Scottish Sustainable Procurement Duty](#)
- [Procurement and Commercial Improvement Programme \(PCIP\) - Overview](#)
- [Public Sector Procurement - Suppliers Guidance](#)

SECTION 9 STRATEGY OWNERSHIP AND CONTACT DETAILS

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SECTION 10 - GLOSSARY

Term	Description
Annual Procurement Report	The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 requires all contracting authorities obliged to publish a Procurement Strategy, to publish an Annual Procurement Report on its regulated procurement activities as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of its financial year.
Award	A decision to accept a tenderer's offer to supply/provide specified goods/services/works according to agreed terms and conditions, thereby creating a legally binding contract.
Best Value	The duty under the Local Government Act in Scotland 2003 to secure continuous improvement in the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which they exercise their functions.
Brexit	An abbreviation for "British exit," referring to the UK's decision in a June 23, 2016 referendum to leave the European Union (EU).
Category Management	Procurement approach used within East Renfrewshire Council to manage categories of spend to increase efficiencies and expertise.
Circular Economy	A model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.
Collaboration	Cooperative joint working with another public sector organisation.
Community Benefits Clauses	Community Benefits Clauses provide a means of achieving sustainability in public contracts.
Contract Management	The process of monitoring the performance of a supplier to contract.
Contractor	The provider of any supplies, services or works under contract. Or, in the context of works, at any stage of the process.
Contract Strategy	A document that shows the preparatory thinking that is done about a procurement process, including sustainability considerations, stakeholders to be involved, risks etc.
Crown Commercial Services	An executive agency sponsored by the Cabinet Office to bring together policy, advice and direct buying, providing commercial services to the Public Sector.
Equality Duty	Compliance with the terms of the Equality Act 2010 and any guidance provided by the Scottish Ministers for local authorities to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duties.
Fair Work First	Fair Work First is the Scottish Government's flagship policy for driving high quality and fair work across the labour market in Scotland by applying fair work criteria to grants, other funding and contracts being awarded by and

	across the public sector, where it is relevant to do so.
Procurement Commercial Improvement Programme (PCIP)	Annual assessment of public sector organisations that focuses on the policies and procedures driving procurement performance and the results they deliver.
Public Contracts Scotland (PCS)	The national advertising portal used to advertise all Scottish Government goods, services or works contract opportunities.
Public Contracts Scotland – Tender (PCS-T)	The national eTendering system.
Procurement exercise	Full end to end procurement exercise documentation from strategy development to contract and supplier management.
Procurement Journey	Public procurement toolkit made available by the Scottish Government to support public sector procurement with guidance and templates on the procurement process when appropriate.
Purchase to Pay	Entire supply chain process, from goods receipt to payment process.
Quick Quote	Procurement method for lower value tenders, where the Invitation to Quote is sent to a set distribution list of suppliers rather than being publically advertised.
Scotland Excel	Scotland Excel is the Centre of Procurement Expertise for Scotland's local government sector.
Scottish Procurement	Directorate within the Scottish Government, carrying out procurements on behalf of the Scottish public sector.
Services/ Supplies/ Works	<p>A public service contract is a contract having as its object the provision of services.</p> <p>A public supply contract is a contract having as its object the purchase, lease, rental or hire purchase with or without an option to buy, of products.</p> <p>A public works contract is a contract having as its object a building or civil engineering project or piece of work.</p>
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises - The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding 50 million euro and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding 43 million euro.
Social Enterprises	Businesses whose primary objectives are social or “more than profit”.
Specification	The part of the invitation to quote or invitation to tender which details the nature and quality of the goods, services or works.
Stakeholder	Any person or group who has a vested interest in the success of the procurement activity, i.e. either provides services to it, or receives services from it.

Standing Orders Relating to Contracts	The set of rules governing the procurement and financial regulations with which the Council must comply, in terms of the Local Government Scotland Act 1973.
Supplier	An entity who supplies goods or services.
Supplier Development Programme	A business support initiative using training and information to improve the competitiveness of local businesses.
Supply Chain	All activities, resources, products etc. involved in creating and moving a product or service from the supplier to the procurer.
Supported Business	A supported business' primary aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons. At least 30% of the employees of those businesses should be disabled or disadvantaged.
Sustainability	In relation to procurement, sustainability involves understanding the potential environmental, social and economic impacts that are a result of purchasing decisions.
Tender	An offer, or bid, by a tenderer in response to an invitation to tender (ITT).
Third Sector	The third sector includes charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups; delivers essential services, helps to improve people's wellbeing and contributes to economic growth.
Value for Money	The optimum combination of cost and quality to provide the required service.
Whole Life Costs	The costs of acquiring goods or services (including consultancy, design and construction costs, and equipment), the costs of operating it and the costs of maintaining it over its whole life through to its disposal – that is, the total ownership costs. These costs include internal resources and overheads.

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EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET5 October 2023Report by Director of EnvironmentCLARKSTON PARKLETS – COMMUNITY REVIEW RESULTS**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the results of a public consultation regarding the future of the Clarkston Parklets and to seek approval to progress with the recommended option as detailed in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Cabinet is asked to:
- a) Note the background of the Clarkston Parklets; and
 - b) Approve the retention and refurbishment of the Clarkston Parklets until 2026.

BACKGROUND

3. In July 2016, East Renfrewshire Council commissioned consultants to work alongside the Council, the local community and stakeholders to develop a vision and strategy for Clarkston Town Centre through a Town Centre Charrette. The Council is committed to developing a long-term vision and strategy for Clarkston Town Centre that was informed by and developed in consultation with the local community and other stakeholders.

4. A number of key issues emerged during the Town Centre Charrette engagement process including the lack of a community hub, heavy traffic flows through the town centre making it difficult for pedestrians to cross Busby Road and for cyclists to get around, poor and uninviting linkages to the Library, Clarkston Hall and adjacent car park, issues with parking, a lack of sense of arrival and a feeling that the main street is cluttered and run down, a lack of variety of shops, not enough for young people to do, and no public meeting space.

5. The vision for the town centre developed during the workshops was summarised as:
- a more pedestrian and cycle friendly town centre, less dominated by traffic – particularly the section of Busby Road from Clarkston Toll roundabout to the railway station entrance
 - a more attractive, distinctive and bustling town centre with more cafe culture, public space, activity, colour and greenery.
 - more business and community activity in the town centre, before and after dark
 - a hub for the local community with more places to meet and spend time.

6. In 2019, a temporary widening of the pavement and provision of benches & planters known as Parklets were installed by East Renfrewshire Council (ERC) on Busby Road, Clarkston. This provided people with places to congregate, rest, eat and places to secure their cycles within the town centre and aimed to help generate economic activity, social value and community benefits. The total costs of the Parklets were £172,546.

7. The Parklets were introduced as a temporary measure for a trial period and as such, were installed using materials suited to the temporary nature of the project lifespan which is approximately 5-10 years. The Council committed to a review of the Parklets after a period of 18 months with a decision on their future to be made at Cabinet. This review was delayed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

8. In March 2021, East Renfrewshire Council commissioned Stantec to undertake a public consultation of the Parklets in Clarkston to gauge attitudes across the wider community in respect of their introduction and future. The final report was published in June 2022.

REPORT

9. The consultation process involved the following: a leaflet drop targeting all houses and businesses within 10 minute walking radius (3,500+ properties) directed them to the online survey; face-to-face public life surveys; link to Survey Monkey for views via the Council's online consultation hub and via existing social media pages.

10. A total of 927 responses were received following the leaflet drop, face to face interviews and online survey process. The respondent groups are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Public Consultation – Survey Analysis

Answer Choices	Responses	
Local resident	83.82%	777
Representing a business (please specify in Other)	0.86%	8
Visitor to shops/ amenities in the area (including the train station)	11.76%	109
Travel through the area	2.91%	27
Organisation (please specify in Other)	0.65%	6
	Total	927

*Please note that not all respondents answered every question in the survey

11. The online survey asked whether respondents would like the Parklets to be made permanent and to select an answer from 1 of 4 options detailed in Table 2. Table 2 below shows the summary of responses, which includes the option to modify the design or incorporate changes.

Table 2 – On line Survey

Respondent/Group	Yes	Yes, but with some changes to design/location	Total Yes + Yes with changes to design/location	No
Local resident	174	144	318	376
Visitor to shops / amenities in the area	23	17	40	51

(including the train station)				
Travel through the area	1	3	4	17
Representing a business (please specify in other)	1	0	1	5
Organisation (please specify in Other)	1	3	4	1
Sub-total	200	167	367	450
Total			367	450

*Please note that not all respondents answered every question in the survey

12. During face to face interviews people were asked whether they would like the parklets to be made permanent. Table 3 below shows the summary of responses, which includes the option to modify the design or incorporate changes.

Table 3 – Face to Face Street Interviews

Respondent/Group	Yes	Yes, but with some changes to design/location	No
Local resident	44	5	9
Representing a business	0	0	0
Visitor to shops/amenities in the area	6	2	0
Travel through the area	4	0	2
Organisation	0	0	0
Other	2	0	0
Sub-total	56	7	11
Total		63	11

13. In summary, the conclusions from the survey are as follows:

- 927 responses were received from local residents, businesses, visitors and those travelling through the area for online and face to face surveys
- 461 people responded that they were not in favour of the parklets being made permanent
- 430 responded that they would like to keep the parklets + yes with some changes to design/location
- A small majority of the responses (52%) were in favour of not making the parklets a permanent feature. 48% indicated there support for the retention of the current structures.
- Despite there being no responses from local businesses via face to face survey, Clarkston Business Improvement District (BID) Manager has confirmed that they are generally supportive of the parklets but there should be tables, bins and an ongoing maintenance regime

14. A meeting with Ward Elected Members was held on 14 August 2023 to update on the research findings and discuss options with Officers from the Environment Department. There was support by Ward Elected Members to retaining and refurbishing the existing parklets and planters at the existing site with an established maintenance regime being put in place.

Clarkston Active Travel Proposals

15. The Council have secured funds from Sustrans to design active travel routes between Clarkston Toll to Muirend and Williamwood High School and Spiersbridge roundabout, with this project going via the current parklets location. This design work will be progressed over the next 12 to 24 months.

16. These plans will consider road space reallocation to improve access and safety for those walking, wheeling and cycling, improved bus stops, railway station accesses, and improved short stay parking, with a view to improving the public realm to be a more inviting space for everyone. The parklets as they currently stand are likely to be impacted to accommodate changes.

17. Based on the public consultation responses, an assessment of value for money, alignment with local and national government policy and plans, 3 options were considered by officers.

- Option 1 - Remove parklets structure and return to previous standard layout;
- Option 2 - Retain and refurbish the existing parklets and planters at the existing site with an established maintenance regime put in place until 2026; and
- Option 3 – Retain the parklets in the same location but with more durable permanent materials.

18. In considering all of the information available, Option 2 is considered the preferred option recommended for approval for the following reasons:

- It is the most cost effective option being the least expensive of the 3 options considered and maximises the value of the existing Council investment by extending the life of the parklets to 2026.
- It reflects the feedback from the Clarkston Business Improvement District (BID) with support from local businesses to retain but make improvements to maintenance regime and some refurbishment.
- 48% of the public consultation is supportive of retention with some improvements made and 52% did not want the structures made permanent. This option delivers on both these options by extending the parklets until 2026. Future permanent use of the space will be considered once Active Travel proposals are finalised.
- Strategically retaining the parklets aligns with local, regional and national policies that support Active Travel, Wellbeing and Get to Zero.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

19. The total costs of the Parklets were £172,546, which was paid from the Council's General Fund Capital Programme.

20. An additional budget required of £30,000 would be used from the Council's General Fund Capital Programme in 2023/24 to deliver on Option 2. This is available from existing budgets. It should be noted that retention of the Parklets in any form would result in ongoing maintenance costs for the Environment Department. Arrangements will be made to provide a maintenance budget up to 2026.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

21. In the development of this project, East Renfrewshire Council have involved local residents, businesses and community groups as part of the Charrette process and through a public consultation review of the Parklets.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

22. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, sustainability or climate change implications associated with this report.

23. A Climate Change Impact Assessment was completed in August 2023 for the preferred Option 2 approach of retaining the existing parklets until the delivery of a council Active Travel Plan in 2026. On this basis no significant detrimental impacts were identified. The existence of Parklets may encourage more people to walk (because they are able to rest) and/or to cycle (because they are able to secure bikes) and this would in turn reduce emissions. This approach also supports the Scottish Government target to reduce car kilometers travelled in Scotland by 20% by 2030.

CONCLUSIONS

24. The Clarkston Parklets were installed as a measure to promote a better sense of place and to improve the local amenity of Clarkston as a local retail centre. The extension to 2026 with improvements made to the parklets provides an extended period to provide these outdoor spaces and seating areas. It will further provide support for walking and cycling in the areas and some greenery. Any permanent changes will follow on from the outcome of the Active Travel Routes design and feasibility work after 2026 and be the subject of future reports to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

25. The Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Note the background of the Clarkston Parklets; and
- b) Approve the retention and refurbishment of the Clarkston Parklets until 2026.

Director of Environment

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September 2023

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