

To: Cabinet
Date: 10th December 2025
Report of: Nigel Kennedy Group Finance Director
Title of Report: Commercial Procurement Strategy 2026-2029

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To seek approval to a three-year Procurement Strategy for the Council
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Councillor for Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan

Recommendation(s): That Cabinet resolves to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the draft Procurement Strategy 2026-2029 (at appendix 1); and Recommend to Council that the draft Procurement Strategy be adopted. 	
Information Exempt From Publication	
None	

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	Draft Corporate Procurement Strategy 2026-2029	No
Appendix 2		

Introduction and background

- The current procurement strategy ended in October 2025.

2. A new three-year corporate procurement strategy (the strategy) is recommended to be in place until 2029, a year after the corporate priorities are due to be reviewed. This will allow a new strategy to be developed in-line with any updated corporate priorities in 2029.
3. A range of internal stakeholders have been engaged in formulation of the strategy and any feedback received has, where practical to do so, been incorporated into this draft.
4. The Strategy is designed to align with the Procurement Act 2023, National Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS) and any procurement Policy Notices (PPN's) along with the Public Procurement Act 2015 (under which a number of old Contracts are still governed) and the Councils Constitution (Section 19).

Key changes from the 2022-2025 strategy

5. The only key change from the previous strategy is linked to how the Council has and will continue to manage and implement the Procurement Act 2023 and new transparency requirements introduced in February 2025, as well as taking into account the content of Council motions so far as possible.

Salient Points of the Strategy

6. The Strategy has links to documents relating to certain areas such as;
 - a. Public expenditure statistical analysis
 - b. National Procurement Policy Statement
 - c. Common areas of spend definitions.

Other implications

7. There are no known implications.

Financial implications

8. Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of the Strategy, clearly the absence of an agreed strategy could lead to increased costs being incurred by the Council or indeed missed opportunities.
9. It is vital that the wholly owned companies (ODSL, ODSTL, OCHL, OCHDL) work with the Council in relation to procurement to ensure that there is not a duplication of the tendering process and awarding of contracts offering the same goods, services or works potentially disaggregating spend and diluting the financial savings arising from Group buying power.
10. It is also important that all the Councils companies are considered in all procurements and named to co-use the contracts where it is deemed practical to do so reducing on costs and hopefully driving more value for money for all the council owned companies.

Legal issues

11. Under Part 4.4 (14) of the Constitution Cabinet is empowered to consider the recommendations in this report.
12. Procurement operates in a highly regulated environment governed by the Council's internal procedures and Constitution and legislation. Adopting an up-to-date

procurement strategy will assist the Council comply with the relevant legislative framework.

Level of risk

13. There are no known risks.

Equalities impact

14. The Procurement Strategy is an important lever for Oxford City Council to narrow inequalities within Oxford, and the delivery of social value also helps achieve that aim. Equalities in procurement are considered in as part of the new Procurement Strategy.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

15. There is no known Environmental Risk

Council Motion related to ethical trade

16. There was a Council motion in 2025 related to ethical trade where the cabinet member for finance was requested to bring forward costed policies that incorporate wherever possible and in line with applicable legislation, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI) and Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR); and that explicitly preclude Council knowingly, indirectly or directly, investing in or trading with entities implicated in the following, henceforth referred to as “the proscribed activities”:

- fossil fuel extraction, processing, or trade;
- state violence and repression, war and occupation comprising grave violations of human rights as defined in international law (including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide);
- the production of weapons, weapon parts, or military equipment where there is risk of the above violations being committed.

17. The above will be addressed during the period of this strategy as set out below

- By incorporating into the Conditions of Participation a self-declaration asking suppliers to confirm that they are not involved in any of the activities listed. The Council would have to accept the suppliers answer to the question
- By building into the terms and conditions of contract a clause that allows the Council to terminate a contract should the Council identify at any time during the life of the Contract that the supplier is engaged in any of the mentioned activities

Conclusion

18. The Strategy does not replace any Council internal rules (Constitution section 19) or external rules (Regulations). It enhances and provides guidance and support for internal stakeholders and sets out how procurement will support the Council priorities.

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Background Papers: None	
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