



Glasgow City Region

Cabinet

Item 8

1st June 2021

Report by Gary Stewart, Chair of the Sustainable Procurement Strategy Group.

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Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy

Purpose of Report:

This report invites the Cabinet to approve the new Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to:

- (1) note the contents of the report and the proposed Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy (Appendix 1); and
- (2) approve the Strategy and Action Plan to be applied as set out in the report.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report invites the Cabinet to approve the new Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 11th August 2020, it was agreed that the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (PMO) should commence the process to develop a Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy ('the Strategy').
- 2.2 The Strategy builds upon the progress made during the delivery of the Glasgow City Region City Deal Procurement Strategy (2015), which put in place a shared approach to the procurement of City Deal projects across the Member Authorities (MAs) and the Glasgow City Region City Deal Community Benefits Strategy (2015) which set out a consistent approach to securing and delivering community benefits. Both of these documents expired in 2020.
- 2.3 Since August 2020 the Sustainable Procurement Strategy Group (SPSG), chaired by Gary Stewart, Glasgow City Council, and the Procurement Support Group (PSG), chaired by Dorothy Balfour, North Lanarkshire Council, have led in the development of the new Sustainable Procurement Strategy, supported by the PMO. This report describes the scope of the Strategy, how it was developed, and gives an overview of its key objectives.
- 2.4 The proposed Sustainable Procurement Strategy and Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

3. Scope of the Strategy

- 3.1 The Sustainable Procurement Strategy unifies the two previous strategy documents – bringing together procurement and community benefits. The Strategy seeks to take into account local procurement strategies already in place and emphasise the areas where value can be maximised through regional collaboration, both between the eight MAs and with wider anchor institutions in the City Region.
- 3.2 The maturity of the partnership between the GCR Member Authorities and the experience of collaborating on procurement and community benefits since 2015 offers a strong foundation to explore how we can deepen our collaboration on procurement beyond the immediate City Deal activity. While the objectives and actions of the Strategy will be mandated by Cabinet to apply to the delivery of City Deal projects, the ambition is that MAs will adopt the approaches and actions for their business as usual procurement activity.
- 3.3 On this basis, the first phase of implementing the Strategy will focus on aligning the approaches and activities of the eight MAs. A key element of the Strategy is extending the partnership beyond the MAs to include key regional partner

and anchor organisations, to create a wider regional approach to procurement and community benefits in the medium to long term.

- 3.4 At this stage, the scope of the Strategy has focussed on construction and infrastructure investment. In the future, further consideration can be given to include other categories of procurement activity.
- 3.5 The Sustainable Procurement Strategy will align with the forthcoming Capital Investment Plan for Glasgow City Region which is currently being developed. Together these documents will allow MAs and partners to better plan future procurements, maximise community benefits, and to focus support for local businesses to improve their capability and chance to benefit from public procurement opportunities.

4. Policy Alignment and Partner Consultation

- 4.1 In the development of the Strategy, the SPSG and PSG have ensured that its objectives and actions are informed by a range of key policy documents and initiatives. These include:
 - **Glasgow City Region Economic Baseline:** the Strategy specifically seeks to align with the three grand challenges identified within the Economic Baseline.
 - **Community Wealth Building:** the recommendations from the recent work undertaken by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) and the Scottish Government on the progressive use of procurement has been taken into account in the development of the Strategy.
 - **Fair Work First** – the Scottish Government’s policies around Fair Work were a key consideration and feature within the Action Plan.
 - **Climate Change and Net Zero:** the Scottish Government have been engaged in the development and their climate change procurement toolkit and guidance is a key element of the strategy.
 - **Glasgow City Region Adaptations Strategy:** there is a clear link between the objectives and actions of the Adaptation Strategy and the Sustainable Procurement Strategy. These documents were developed in parallel with complementary actions included.
- 4.2 The Strategy and Action Plan has been developed with significant input and consultation from eight GCR MAs through their participation on the Procurement Support Group. Through the Sustainable Procurement Strategy Group a wider range of partners have been actively engaged, including the Scottish Government, the Supplier Development Programme, and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB). The PMO has also engaged with Tier 1 contractors through the CITB Community Benefits Forum, the Federation of Small Businesses, and Zero Waste Scotland.

5. Key Objectives and Actions

- 5.1 The Strategy sets out five key objectives:
 - Encouraging Collaboration across Glasgow City Region

- Supporting Local Businesses to Thrive
- Creating Opportunities for Employment and Jobs
- Skills, Training and Fair Work
- Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change and Reducing Carbon Emissions

5.2 Under each of these objectives there are a series of actions, which will be delivered by a key set of tasks. Once the Strategy is approved by Cabinet, the Procurement Support Group will set out a workplan for the delivery of these tasks.

5.3 Progress made in delivering the Action Plan will be monitored and reported to the Chief Executives' Group through the Annual Implementation Plan monitoring process.

5.4 The Sustainable Procurement Strategy will be launched at the Meet the Buyer event on 8th June which has been arranged by the Supplier Development Programme. The Chair of the Cabinet, Councillor Susan Aitken, will formally launch the Strategy.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Cabinet is invited to:

- (1) note the contents of the report and the proposed Glasgow City Region Sustainable Procurement Strategy (Appendix 1); and
- (2) approve the Strategy and Action Plan to be applied as set out in the report.