

CORPORATE SERVICES – 12/13

REQUEST AND RESPONSE

1. What percentage of your local authority's total procurement budget is spent on goods and services from suppliers and providers in the local authority area? This information is not currently held in a readily accessible way. We have used post code data historically to capture this information but what appears to be a non-local supplier can turn out to be an organisation who have local offices and employs local people so adds an additional level of complexity to the definition of 'local supplier'. The Council's approach is to ensure barriers are removed in terms of Local Suppliers bidding for Council work and contracts which is set out in the Council's Procurement Strategy.

2. What percentage of your local authority's total procurement budget is spent on goods and services from suppliers and providers based out of the local authority? Please see response above.

3. Do you use social value clauses in your procurement contracts? If so, in what percentage of contracts do you use social value clauses? Not directly – however we do review the evaluation of tenders based on non-financial criteria and if relevant such criteria could include social value considerations.

4. Do you believe that the Social Value Act will make it easier for you to take into consideration the wider social and economic benefits of contracts when awarding tenders? We already have a responsibility to consider a wide range of issues so in reality the Act just sharpens the focus rather than adding anything new or making it easier. In undertaking procurement, the Council would in any case consider the impact on its key priorities which cover a range of issues such as affordable housing, economic growth and environmental issues so the relevant social and economic issues within the Council's area should already form part of decision making.

5. Has your local authority ever faced legal action for a claimed breach of EU procurement laws? NO

6. Do you take into account issues such as whether suppliers pay the Living Wage and/or offer other non-statutory benefits to employees? Not directly but may form part of method / service delivery statements as part of the tender evaluation process.

7. Do you take into account ethical procurement issues such as 'Fairtrade' status or Labour rights when procuring goods initially produced in developing countries? Such issues are set out in the Council's Procurement Strategy as 'good' guidance to follow in procurement activities.

8. Do you believe central government cuts to Local Government Finance will have a negative upon the ability of your council to take into account wider social value when awarding contracts? Not necessarily in a direct way. In echoing comments in point 4 above, 'good' procurement needs to be undertaken set against the capacity to deliver with a reducing

workforce and ‘buying’ power with procurement being an increasingly important ‘strand’ to support the delivery of a balanced budget in future years.