

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

PROCUREMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Town Council, through its Councillors and staff, is responsible for ensuring that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards; and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

In discharging this accountability, the Town Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and the stewardship of the resources in its care.

SUSTAINABLE (OR GREEN) PROCUREMENT

This is "the process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society and the economy, while minimising damage to the environment." From *Procuring the Future* (Sustainable Procurement Task Force) June 2006.

The procurement of goods and services is increasingly seen as a key area where local councils can help bring about a large number of changes which are needed to help make our society more sustainable.

By allocating the money we are spending anyway in a more careful fashion, we can reduce our impact on climate change, reduce resource demands, support the growth of new technologies and associated suppliers, support more sustainable farming, and reduce land fill waste by encouraging reprocessing and insisting on recycle content in the products we buy.

We can stop using poorly performing products in terms of their energy and resource efficiency and even address issues such as child labour practices through our purchasing choices and practice.

The right approach can even help generate more employment, develop skills in new technologies and hence address a number of social issues.

PRINCIPLES

The Town Council will undertake sustainable procurement to help deliver improved quality of life and better value for money for both consumers and producers.

This will be based on an integrated approach taking into account economic, environmental and social considerations.

Economic considerations will be addressed particularly through :

- Competitive tendering in accordance with the Town Council's constitution.
- Ensuring the financial bona fides of suppliers.
- Taking account of whole life-cycle costs covering acquisition, operational costs, maintenance costs, taxes, and disposal costs/resale value.
- Wherever practical, purchasing through local authority consortium arrangements, such as Framework Agreements for energy.

Environmental considerations will be addressed particularly through :

- Recognising national standards for best practice, e.g. BREEAM for new buildings and the Forestry Standards Council for new timber and timber products.
- Recognising EU Eco-labelling.
- Taking account of CO² emissions, both embedded and direct emissions in use.
- Using the most up-to-date guidance available from public agencies and professional bodies.

Social considerations will be addressed particularly through :

- The purchase of products, works and services that have a positive social impact, e.g. by supporting supplier diversity (social economy, equal opportunities, small and medium-sized enterprises, long-term unemployed).
- Ethical supply chains (International Labour Office core conventions: e.g. working hours, excluding child labour).

The Town Council will promote the policy through publicity on the policy and individual purchasing decisions; and through encouraging its partners in the voluntary and public sectors to purchase in the same way.

Committee responsible	Environment
Adopted at NTC meeting	19 January 2010
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