

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL**  
**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESOURCES**  
**19 JUNE 2013**

**SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To report on the progress made on the Sustainable Procurement & Commissioning Action Plan May 2012 to March 2013.

**2. PROPOSED CHANGES TO PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2013/14**

- 2.1 The Council is considering substantive changes to its current procurement arrangement to improve consistency and compliance with contract regulations. A review of the current Contract Regulations is also proposed. These proposals will seek approval through the Executive and Council shortly. As a result, the Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Action Plan has not been refreshed for 2013-14.

**3. PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING ACTION PLAN 2012-13**

- 3.1 Appendix 1 sets out the progress made against last year's plan. Highlights include:

**Working with Small Businesses**

We continue to work with small businesses and the voluntary and community sectors in Exeter and the surrounding region to increase their involvement in bidding for Council work, in particular involving where possible.

**The Green Accord**

The Green Accord continues its position as our prime sustainable procurement tool. This initiative continues to be supported with local and regional business involvement. Notably it continues to receive support from Exeter University's Centre for Business and Climate Solutions through their funded project to drive the Green Accord through company supply chains by providing free training to companies on how to achieve this accreditation. The Green Accord has also now been officially adopted and published as a desired sustainable accreditation mark for construction companies and their supply chains working for Bristol City Council.

**Collaborating with Procurement Services across Devon**

The Council continues to work with the Devon Procurement Partnership (DPP) which is comprised of all public procurement bodies in Devon including local authorities, emergency services and academic institutions. It continues to seek to develop best practice in terms of procurement and initiates collaborative procurements for the benefit of its members. This year, there has been a drive to investigate how public authorities can promote the Government-backed Green Deal and exploit Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding opportunities, primarily to tackle fuel poverty issues in the region.

The Council also continues to contribute to the Heads of Procurement Group (or HOPS). This strategic group was established to meet the specific challenges faced by local authorities in Devon. This group comprises procurement leads from Devon County Council, Torbay, Plymouth and Exeter, together with the chair and deputy chair of the DPP. Exeter's involvement remains particularly beneficial as it recognised that it can ensure that the City's unique contribution comes from being the only urban Devon district.

#### **4. RECOMMENDED**

- 4.1 That Scrutiny Committee - Resources notes the progress made on the Sustainable Procurement and Commissioning Action Plan in 2012/13.

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HOUSING AND CONTRACTS

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)  
Background papers used in compiling this report:**

None