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Sustainable Procurement Policy



Sustainable Procurement ***“A 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 and generates benefits not only to the organisation, but also to society, the economy and the environment”.***

RoS is committed to supporting the Scottish Government’s purpose of ‘increasing sustainable economic growth’. Procurement is an essential element in delivering the Scottish Government’s priorities and plays a key role in attaining the social, economic and environmental benefits that sustainable economic growth delivers.

We are conscious that our activities affect the environment in which we exist and we are acting to minimise negative environmental and social impacts associated with the products and services we purchase. We acknowledge our responsibilities in delivering this policy and recognise the importance of engaging our suppliers and (internal) customers in its implementation.

In addition to supporting RoS’ broader Environmental Policy, we will embrace the following principles:

- An organisational wide commitment to making more sustainable choices when undertaking procurement. This means identifying more sustainable ways of meeting requirements and designing sustainable procurement specifications accordingly. The approach will address the social, economic and environmental implications of product and service choices. When relevant it will embrace whole-life costing and address how aspects such as design, manufacturing materials, operating costs, energy consumption, waste and recycling options support a more sustainable approach
- To work in partnership with our suppliers and contractors to minimise the environmental and social impacts of our supply chain.
- To support sustainable economic growth by promoting the use of SMEs and local suppliers within our supply chain.
- To support Corporate Social Responsibility and embrace Scottish Government’s programme to increase the use of community benefit clauses and public-social partnerships and where feasible working with the third sector to offer them greater involvement in service design and delivery.
- Promote use of the Scottish Governments Supported Business Framework

Procurement Policy Statement

We will incorporate corporate social responsibility and sustainability into our everyday procurement activity to benefit society, the economy and the environment.

We will purchase goods and services in a way that minimises the impact on the environment where it is practical and economically viable. In line with the Scottish Government's purpose of increasing sustainable economic growth, EU and UK 'green' procurement legislation, we will initiate savings in materials, energy, reduce waste, and promote a sustainable approach to the way we conduct our business.

Working with colleagues and suppliers we will ensure whole-life costs are considered and that, where practical and economically viable, purchases have been manufactured and are delivered, used and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

Appropriate environmental and social requirements will be integrated into all procurement activities, e.g. specification and evaluation stage.

All procurements over £50,000 will be evaluated to take into account the environmental and/or social impacts of a particular product or service over its whole-life cycle, and appropriate supplier sustainability performance assessment criteria and weightings will be used.

We will comply with the specific duties relating to sustainability contained within the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014

This policy will be supported by a delivery plan covering the 10 Steps to Sustainable Procurement, together with specific objectives and targets. Our main target is to maintain Level 4 status on the Scottish Government Flexible Framework (the Flexible Framework was produced by the UK Sustainable Procurement Task Force and is a useful and easy means of self-assessing an organisation's performance on sustainable procurement). Ongoing annual reviews will be undertaken to ensure maintenance of Level 4.

This policy and delivery plan will be reviewed annually as part of our corporate planning cycle. This will align it to our business objectives and ensure it is appropriate to the nature and scale of our operations.