

Proposed Decision to be made Under the Council's Urgency Procedure by the Portfolio Holder

WCC Response to Green Paper on Procurement Reform

Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kam Kaur
Date of decision	10 March 2021
	Signed 

Decision taken

(1) Submission of Warwickshire County Council's response to the government Green Paper on Procurement Reform which is detailed in Appendix 1 is approved.

Reasons for decision

The Government published its Green Paper on Procurement Reform on 15 December 2020. Responses are to be returned by 10 March 2021.

The proposals within the Green Paper are wide ranging and detailed and have required significant consideration by officers involved in managing and advising upon procurement activity.

As a result of the pandemic response and recovery work, it has taken longer to produce a proposed Council response than would usually be the case. That response is now complete and requires approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder before it can be submitted.

Reasons for Urgency

The deadline for submission of the Response is 10 March 2021 at 11:59pm. As the response requires the approval of the Portfolio Holder before submission, it has been necessary to bring this as an urgent decision.

Background information

The Government published its Green Paper on Procurement Reform on 15 December 2020.

Responses are to be returned by 10 March 2021. Those proposals are wide ranging and detailed and have required significant consideration by officers involved in managing and advising upon procurement activity.

As a result of the pandemic response and recovery work, it has taken longer to produce a proposed Council response than would usually be the case. That response is now complete and requires approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder before it can be submitted.

The proposals seek to simplify the current procurement regime with the rationalisation of procurement routes and greater transparency at the heart of the proposed reforms. Warwickshire County Council supports any proposals that will make procurement processes simpler to follow, less bureaucratic and make it easier to find innovative solutions. We welcome any measures that help deliver better and more efficient procurement that safeguards public value for money.

In summary, we believe a number of the proposals will help to achieve these aims although for some we would need to see more details before coming to a final view. There are some proposals (as noted below) which we feel may work against these aims and these are flagged in our response. We have also indicated where we consider that the proposals do not take account of the differing roles of tiers of local government and the statutory duties that come with them.

In particular we suggest that there needs to be some consideration given to the timing and scale of any changes, taking into account the current circumstances that we all are facing; coming out of a pandemic, facing increasing financial pressure and limits on our resources. Some of the proposals are well intentioned but likely to result in significant increase in resource pressures within local government.

We have indicated that we would welcome the opportunity to further comment on revised detailed proposals following the outcome of the consultation before any new legislation is drafted, as these reforms will have a significant impact on how we procure moving forward.

Financial implications

No financial implications to the submitting of the response.

The financial implications of the proposed reforms will need to be considered following the consultation.

Environmental implications

No financial implications to the submitting of the response.

Report Author	Nichola Vine, Mark Baker, John Hopper
Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury, Steve Smith
Lead Director	Rob Powell
Lead Member	

Urgent matter?	Yes
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers (If applicable)

Appendix 1 – Green Paper Response

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Kam Kaur

Legal – Nichola Vine, Strategy and Commissioning Manager, Legal and Democratic

Democratic Services – Paul Williams

Councillor Adrian Warwick (For consent to Urgency)

Procurement: Steve Smith (AD), Mark Baker, John Hopper

SD – Rob Powell

Local Member(s): n/a