

Warwickshire County Council



Procurement Strategy 2022-2025

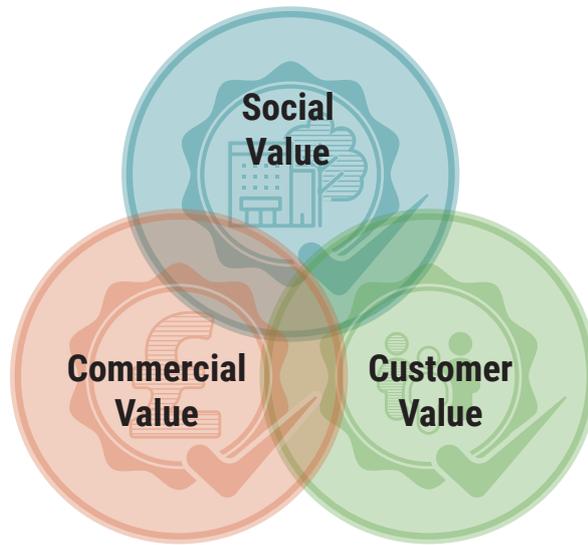




Our Statement to Suppliers

Warwickshire County Council spends more than £345m per year with third parties.

The council has approved its Procurement and Contract Management Strategy for 2021 – 2026. This strategy sets out three pillars of value that we plan to achieve through procurement and contract management.



Customer Value

securing quality services for residents, businesses, visitors, staff and partners

Commercial Value

securing value for money and supporting the Council's financial sustainability

Social Value

securing wider benefits for communities, the economy and the environment

We define value broadly because we recognise that the cheapest solution is not necessarily the best value for money. Value in modern public services is more complex than the lowest price and it can come from unexpected places. Markets are innovating in ways we may not be aware of when setting out to procure something. We are open to different ways of doing things and want to work with our suppliers to draw on the best expertise from around the world, while supporting and learning from businesses who are delivering innovation locally.



What This Means for You



Customer Value

A great Council

Quality services for local communities

Service users are involved in their design

Services are delivered by organisations that demonstrate public values

A great partner

The Council is a great partner to work with and can 'get things done'

More integrated public services

The Council is easy to do business with for partners and suppliers

A great place to work

Goods and services that support staff to be their best and do their best

Staff have the tools and skills to procure and manage contract effectively

The way we do things is flexible and creative, while keeping compliant



Commercial Value

Value for money

Support the MTFs by delivering savings from third party spend

Procurement cost reduced through collaboration, innovation and technology

Value is maintained and improved throughout the contract lifecycle

Manage the impact of high inflation and price volatility through expert procurement strategies and robust contract management

Innovation

Data drives better decision making and improved services for residents

Learning from the best of the private, public and voluntary sectors

Savings delivered by thinking differently, minimising impact on frontline services

Diverse and resilient supply chains

A mix of small and large businesses to protect the Council's buying power

Well prepared for risks and emergencies

Strong and resourceful voluntary sector



Social Value

Safe, healthy, independent communities

Communities are helped to recover from COVID-19

Reduced inequalities in society and employment

Young people get the best start in life

Supporting ex-Forces into work

A vibrant economy and places

New businesses, jobs and skills

Skills for a digital economy

Reducing economic inequality

A quality education for all

A sustainable future

Carbon Net Zero Council by 2030

Carbon Net Zero County by 2050

Resident engagement in climate change

Business engagement in climate change

A Great Council and Partner



We know we're asking for more from our suppliers – more innovation, more added value and more commitment to improving public services. We also want to be a great partner to do business with. We plan to do this in the following ways:

- We know that public sector procurement can seem confusing and bureaucratic, particularly for smaller organisations. Many of the requirements are set out in law and we can't change them. However, wherever we can influence things, we'll do our best to strip out bureaucracy, simplify language and make it as easy as possible to do business with us.
- This includes making it as easily as possible to find, access and respond to procurement opportunities with the Council. From 2022/23, we'll be producing an annual plan of upcoming procurements, so that interested suppliers can prepare for these and plan their resources.
- We also want to talk to businesses, charities and community groups much earlier about what we should be procuring and how we should procure it. This isn't always easy – sometimes our teams are under huge pressure to secure services for our residents – but from 2022/23, we'll be producing more guidance for teams across the Council on how to engage with the market before starting a procurement process.
- There are also some big changes coming to the law around public procurement. Since we left the EU, the Government has been working on new UK legislation including the Public Procurement Bill. When the new legislation is activated, there will be some changes to the way we buy goods, works and services. We don't know what all of these are yet, but we plan to communicate with our current and prospective suppliers as early as possible so that you know what to expect.
- These changes will apply across the public sector. So, if you do business with other public sector organisations, including other councils, the NHS or central government departments, you may already be aware of some of the proposed changes. We will work with all parts of the market to help suppliers get ready and we are particularly keen to support small and local organisations, who may only do business within Warwickshire and might not have access to information and support through other means.
- We also want to take feedback from suppliers on how easy we are to do business with. We know that it is inevitably very disappointing for suppliers who spend a lot of time on a procurement process and don't win the contract. Sometimes there can only be one successful supplier, but we want to make the experience of bidding for work for us as easy as possible. From 2022/23, we will be sending out post-procurement surveys to all suppliers, asking for feedback on the process.
- Lastly, we will be asking for more ideas and support from our suppliers to tackle the big issues that face our communities, the climate and our local economy. The contributions suppliers can make to these will often be awarded marks in our procurement processes (typically through questions about 'Social Value'). To help suppliers understand what we're looking for and why it matters, we'll make sure all the relevant policies and guidance are published on our website

For more information visit:
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