

Business Support and Digital Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 August 2026

Procurement Strategy 2025-2030 Update Report

Report from: Bhupinder Gill Assistant Director for Legal and Governance

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Summary

This report summarises the performance of the first year of the 2025-2030 Procurement Strategy.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. The Committee is recommended to note the year 1 update within Appendix A and provide comments to Cabinet.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. Procurement is a Cabinet function. The attainment of 'best value', as detailed within the original strategy, supports the delivery of not only financial, but also quality and social benefits to all council contracts.

3. Background

- 3.1. The 2025-2030 Procurement Strategy was approved at Cabinet in September 2025 under decision number 138/2025.
- 3.2. A good level of progress has been made against the actions set and Appendix A details that as well as what else can be done.
- 3.3. The organisation must remain cognisant of Local Government Reorganisation and consider how far resource intensive actions are progressed if their perceived benefits are not guaranteed.

4. Options

- 4.1. The options that will be open for Cabinet's consideration will be:
- 4.2. Option 1 - note the progress made to date and approve the continuation as detailed in Appendix A.

- 4.3. The proposal outlined within Appendix A is a true reflection of what has been delivered and is a proportionate response to what would genuinely benefit Medway prior to vesting day of the new North Kent Authority. Whilst it may be aspirational to achieve more in the transitional period, it may be without benefit or not a consideration of the North Kent Authority and in turn detract resources from 'safe and legal' LGR preparations.
- 4.4. Option 2 – note the progress made to date yet revise some of the actions detailed within Appendix A.
- 4.5. Appendix A has been populated from the perspective of a proportionate response to Local Government Reorganisation. The actions are proportionately challenging in the backdrop of what could be recorded and achieved in Medway Council's remaining tenure. That being so, members may wish to see alternations to the proposals, in which case they would be welcome for discussion.
- 4.6. Any revision must be offset with the impact that would have on Local Government Reorganisation planning as well as the benefit it would yield for Medway Council.

5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1. Based on the above options appraisal, it is proposed that option 1, is approved.

6. Risk management

- 6.1. Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. The following table considers any significant risk arising from the report.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Reputational	Not having a fit for purpose or delivering procurement strategy.	Approving the procurement strategy update as proposed.	C3
Reputational	Inability to scrutinise collective procurement decisions.	Approving the procurement strategy as proposed and agreeing annual	C3

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
		reporting on progress.	
Financial	Failure to achieve value for money.	Ensuring the approved procurement strategy update enables officers to apply a corporately agreed emphasis to achieving value for money.	C2
Social	Inability to provide local benefit through our buying power.	Approving the strategy update as proposed which emphasises the delivery of local benefits.	C3

For risk rating, please refer to the following table (please **retain** table in final report):

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely	1 Critical
B Likely	2 Major
C Unlikely	3 Moderate
D Rare	4 Minor

7. Consultation

- 7.1. The Procurement Strategy actions naturally mandated a varying level of consultation with colleagues both in and out of the organisation to support both progress made as well as that to come.

8. Climate change implications

- 8.1. The proposed strategy continues to have a clear focus on delivering social value, within which climate change is addressed.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1. The Council's procurement strategy supports the Council's attainment of value for money but there are no direct financial implications associated with this decision.
- 9.2. Financial commitments made after the annual update to the procurement strategy will continue to be subject to internal governance on an individual basis.

10. Legal implications

- 10.1. There is no legal requirement to have a procurement strategy, however having one allows the organisation to maintain focus on outcomes when considering third-party spend.
- 10.2. Appendix A has no legal implications associated to its continued delivery.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Procurement Strategy Actions Update 2026