

PROCUREMENT

STRATEGY OUTLINE 2005-2010

Introduction

This strategy sets out the ways in which the procurement function will contribute to delivering the vision expressed in the Group Strategic Plan, and is closely aligned with the Efficiency Strategy.

It outlines an approach to best practice procurement which brings together efficiency, quality and probity, and will be put into effect through detailed policy and procedures linking the Group's wider goals and objectives to practical procurement activity at all levels from the strategic to the everyday.

Corporate vision and Mission

The group's vision is to:

- make good housing accessible to people who cannot afford open market prices;
- create homes that people enjoy living in year after year;
- help to create safe, secure and vibrant neighbourhoods.

To achieve this we will increase the number of new homes we are providing across a range of tenures. But building more houses alone will not achieve this vision. It is important that we maintain and improve those homes and that we provide the services our customers want, in communities where they feel safe and want to live.

Functional vision and mission:

The procurement function will:

- Develop and support a corporate approach to procurement which reflects the Group's overall values and objectives and which recognises the perspectives of individual companies;
- ensure compliance with European public procurement regulation;
- actively pursue opportunities for savings through improved procurement;
- promote the sharing of best practice and market knowledge across the group;
- maximise efficiencies in operating costs and procurement methods, thereby creating more capacity for the group to achieve its vision of growth.

To achieve this we shall recognise the importance of both cost and quality in everything we do, and will promote a culture throughout the group which is informed, cost-conscious and ready to work collaboratively toward joint solutions to the challenge of efficiency.

Key aims of the procurement function

to develop and deliver procurement policies which fully exploit the opportunities for increased efficiency offered by innovative models of procurement, including partnerships, framework arrangements, consortia and collaborative approaches, and which include dialogue with both market providers and end users to ensure the best possible fit between deliverability and the expressed needs of customers;

to provide support, training and internal consultancy to those planning or undertaking procurement to ensure that appropriate skills and awareness are brought to individual projects, to keep the organisation at the leading edge of procurement best practice;

to embed an understanding of value for money principles at all levels of the organisation, and establish a framework for measuring improvement;

continuously to review and analyse current sourcing and to rationalise purchasing across the group wherever appropriate to improve efficiency and achieve savings in running costs;

to ensure that the drive for efficiency is properly planned, monitored and reported. By taking ownership of the wider efficiency agenda, to ensure that the Group efficiency strategy is kept under review, that delivery of anticipated initiatives is tracked and managed, and that challenging targets are set for continuous improvement.

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