

Record of Decisions

Increasing Local Spend

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 24 August 2021.

Decision

That the report be noted.

Reason for the Decision

By using the SupplyDevon hub as the Council's route to market for low level spend, the Council can:

- increase the spend that remains within Torbay (or Devon where there is no Torbay based supplier);
- feed into the Community Wealth Building agenda;
- reduce the reliance contracting departments have on their own knowledge of the local supply market and the need to undertake extensive research to identify potential local suppliers;
- remove the lack of visibility around whether the current requirement to invite at least one local supplier to bid where spend is between £10,001 and £25,000 is being met;
- remove the potential for favoured suppliers to regularly be given the opportunity to bid for and be awarded work.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 7 September 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council would be taking part in a pilot that would use the SupplyDevon hub as the route to market for external Council spend between £5,000 and £50,000. The use of SupplyDevon, which identifies all potential suppliers on their ability to meet the need, for low value contracts should increase the level of spend with suppliers based in Torbay or where there is no Torbay supplier registered, enable the spend to remain within Devon.

At the meeting Councillor Cowell proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The alternative options considered were:

- do nothing. This option was discounted as maintaining the status quo would not lead to change in the level of local spend.
- mandate that where a request for quote process was being undertaken only local suppliers could be invited to bid. This option was discounted as it would require a level of

knowledge of local supply markets the Council does not currently have, along with the capacity to monitor compliance, which would potentially divert Procurement, Contract Management and Commissioning resource from higher level more complex procurements.

- run open tenders through the Council's current e-tendering portal for all spend over £5,000. This option was discounted as the system cannot be tailored to enable advertising of opportunities to local suppliers only.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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27 August 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet