

EEDA Sustainable Procurement: work in progress

Extract from Draft Sustainability Statement Issued by Emma Carpenter - EMS Coordinator:

Our Sustainable Procurement Policy states we will use our spending power and influence on the market to support the sustainable economic growth of the region. Our approach to procurement will be responsible, safe and inclusive - embracing and mainstreaming sustainable outcomes. In so doing, we will continue to deliver value for money, promote competitiveness and work collaboratively with partners. The Policy applies to all aspects of our expenditure, including grant funding and will be implemented through all relevant procedures. Our approach is guided by 'Securing the Future', the UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy 2005, 'Procuring the Future' 2006, and the 'UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan' 2007. Within individual procurements we will seek alignment with the wider ambitions of the Regional Economic Strategy / Single Regional Strategy.

We have set ourselves targets for sustainable procurement against the Flexible Framework, above those required by the Government whose wish is to become EU leader in sustainable procurement. Details of the Flexible Framework can be found within the "Procuring the Future - Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan" document.

The UK Government Sustainable Procurement Action Plan 2007 may be downloaded here:

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/566952>

We are working on a Sustainable Procurement Strategy which will guide the work undertaken as part of the flexible framework, and ensure effective delivery of our Sustainable procurement policy.

As well as adopting a Sustainable Procurement policy, in September 2007 we launched an e-procurement system which has dramatically reduced the amount of paper received by EEDA. This action alone benefits all of our suppliers as they no longer need to send multiple hard copies of their tenders. In some cases, these tenders would equate to one or two reams of paper. Internally, we have eliminated the need to print out every procurement tender document - although the facility is there for those who find it difficult to carry out a major evaluation on - screen. This action again is cutting down on our paper requirement and saving EEDA money.

We have added to this process through the use of the new on-line forms initiative championed by ICT. We have eliminated the paper "tender initiation" document and now use a fully electronic process for internal Procurement

Initiation Documents (PIDs) which again contributes towards the reduction of internal paper use. Plans are in place to replace the full range of procurement forms with the integrated on-line forms system, which will further enhance our efficiency savings.

We ask our suppliers to respect our policies and to show us how they intend to further our aims on the Environmental and Sustainability agenda. We do so by having a standard Criterion in each of our ITTs with the following wording (reproduced from a live tender):

EEDA is committed to Environmentally sound and Sustainable Procurement. A copy of our Environmental Policy is available as Attachment 2.

Show how you intend to produce the required outputs while recognising and as much as possible, incorporating EEDAs stated environmental policy.

Show what measures you will take to incorporate sustainability into your methodology

Our electronic tendering system is 'live', and as more instances where sustainability can be incorporated into our procurement activities are identified, we will add them to the process and generally champion their inclusion in the resultant contracts

We are restricted to a certain extent at present due to a majority of our normal procurement activities being for the appointment of consultants. As such, there are not many areas that we can influence, as opposed to 'works', 'supplies' or 'services'. These latter categories are more open to being led in a sustainable direction. We are however also in the process of updating our standard terms of contract to include specific requirements, for example regarding the use of recycled paper for reports, and recycled materials in packaging. The updated "short form" standard terms for contracts under £15k in value is currently being piloted and will be rolled out from end March/start April 2009, together with an updated longer form standard terms for higher value contracts.

The Sustainability statement is drawn from a report commissioned by NWDA in collaboration with Action Sustainability and Forum for the Future.

When the Sustainability Statement has been approved by the resources committee, it will be uploaded to all future procurement notices as standard attachment three, along with the Environmental Policy already endorsed by Deborah Cadman.