

Procurement Plan - Period October 2021 – October 2023

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1.0 Introduction / Executive summary

This procurement plan is aimed at promoting effective procurement across the Library. As with all public sector organisations, the Library is facing significant financial pressures and this plan aims to provide a clear and consistent framework to ensure procurement activity supports all services to meet the Library's priorities.

It supports the Library's five-year Strategy 'Reaching People' published in 2020 and supports the National Performance Framework, by being inclusive, sustainable, tackling poverty by sharing opportunities more equally and value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment, and measuring performance against an agreed scheme of metrics.

It sets the process the Library has adopted for regulated procurements; a statutory requirement under section 15 of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and covers a two-year period with review annually or earlier if necessary.

2.0 Procurement vision and mission statement

To ensure clear, concise, commercially effective and compliant procurement processes and procedures, that are proportionate and relevant to the Library's requirement and support its business needs, are available across the organisation.

It aims to ensure value for money which encompasses cost, sustainability and quality. It will do this by improving supplier access to Library public contracts, delivering savings and benefits, maximising efficiency and collaboration plus embedding sustainability in all we do.

3.0 Strategic rationale / Context

What we procure and how we procure it is becoming increasingly important in our need to achieve greater efficiencies in a time of economic constraints as well as meeting the client/user demand for high quality and effective services.

The Library, as an NDPB, also has an obligation to comply with Procurement principles of transparency, equal treatment and non – discrimination and proportionality as instructed through Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015, Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016 and the Concession Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

Procurement is a devolved responsibility within the Library. DPOs 'Buyers' authorised to procure goods, services and works need to do so within an agreed policy and procedural framework fully endorsed by the Library Leadership Team (LLT).

Version 5.0 of the Library Procurement Policy was endorsed by LLT in February 2021.

Library procurement policy, procedures and guidance reflect current public policy and guidelines and follow the Procurement Journey.

The Library's Procurement & Contracts Division 'Procurement' is responsible for providing advice, guidance, support and training to DPOs and Contract Managers as well as partnering them at an appropriate level on all low value and regulated procurement processes.

3.1 Procurement principles

This procurement plan is based on a number of procurement principles as described in the Library's procurement policy.

4.0 Strategic aims, objectives & key priorities

Through its procurement process and contract awards the Library will strive to achieve value to the public and value for money by maximising efficiency and collaboration, delivering savings and benefits, improving supplier access to Library public contracts, embedding sustainability whilst ensuring the sustainable development of a skilled and capable procurement workforce.

In addition to the recurring planned procurement activity 'Procurement' will

- support the Library Digital Department with its plans moving forward to transfer IT service and storage requirements from on premise to the Cloud.
- the planned schedule of new procurement activities in the Library Climate Action Plan 2021.

4.1 Efficiency and collaboration

We will continue to:

- Work with our Scottish Procurement colleagues, National Institutions and like-minded organisations, Procurement Cluster Group and other public organisations, including but not exclusive to the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body and National Records of Scotland to deliver procurement efficiencies through collaboration and sharing best practice.
- Analyse spend in order to review opportunities to collaborate with local partners.
- Monitor our usage of applicable National and Sectoral framework contracts, UK OGC Frameworks including G Cloud services and aim to increase these where appropriate.

Develop local collaborative procurement with members of Procurement Cluster Group, National Institutions and Further Education Institutions including the Universities of Edinburgh & Glasgow where we have a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Library will remain fully engaged with the collaborative efforts of Scottish Procurement and Commercial Directorate and representatives from the Library will participate in National Forums and User Intelligence Groups, where appropriate.

To achieve value for money all regulated procurements will be tendered on the best price / quality ratio.

4.2 Savings and benefits

'Procurement' will continue to monitor procurement outcomes, produce and widely share procurement management information, including quarterly and annual procurement Best Practice Indicators (BPIs) a summary of which is reported annually to the Library's Audit Committee.

During the period of the plan we will review, assess and amend if necessary, the BPI categories being measured to ensure the data collected and reported is fit for purpose and meets current sectoral and national requirements.

In addition, we will review and improve if necessary, our processes and procedures for measuring the value of SME engagement throughout the supply chain on recently awarded (past 3 years) key contracts.

Similarly, we will review and improve if necessary, our processes and procedures for reporting cash and non-cash savings made through the use of direct procurement. Also the non-cash benefits of adopting frameworks, where available, over direct awarded contracts.

Annually we will provide Scottish Government with the BPI dashboard.

Library contract managers are required to manage contracts / contractors in accordance with the contract conditions, to assist them in the process of effective supplier and contract management 'Procurement' will develop and continue to make available on the Library SharePoint a set of contract management guidelines, processes, procedures and toolkits and will introduce a 'Procurement' led process to ensure key contracts are monitored.

4.3 Access

All regulated public contracts procured directly by the Library will continue to be advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal in accordance with the appropriate Regulations; this ensures compliance with our duty to treat relevant economic operators equally and without discrimination and to act in a transparent and proportionate manner.

We will continue to support events for suppliers wishing to understand our procurement processes in more detail.

The SPD has been adopted for all appropriate GPA threshold contracts and Regulated sub GPA threshold contracts.

Commercial opportunities for the digitisation of special collections (if any) will be advertised on the Library web site and by any other means as deemed suitable.

In addition to utilising the National Supported Business Framework for purchase of PPE and Uniforms plus routine signage, we will look at how we can develop and increase our engagement with Supported Businesses.

Similarly, over the period of the plan we will look at means of reporting on our engagement with SMEs, third sector organisations and social enterprises.

As a requirement of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014, the Library has published its regulated contracts register on Public Contract Scotland (PCS). Over the period of the plan the Library will consider making publicly available its wave plan of planned regulated procurements.

4.4 Sustainability

For each and every regulated procurement the individual service or commodity procurement strategy will include a sustainability test identifying, how in conducting the procurement process it can:

- Improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the local and wider environment.
- Facilitate the involvement of small and medium enterprises, third sector bodies and supported business in the process.
- Promote innovation.

Use of other sustainable procurement tools:

- The flexible framework assessment tool will be completed and reviewed annually to assess the Library's current level of performance and actions required to embed good procurement practise to realise intended sustainable outcomes.
- The Prioritisation Tool will be used to assist with early-stage strategic planning and provide a standard structured approach to the assessment of spend categories.

In accordance with Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and or where it is proportionate and relevant, community benefit clauses, covering economic, social and environmental conditions, will be incorporated into the contract conditions for all contracts over £4m (mandatory) and below £4m where deemed appropriate.

In addition, consideration will be given to including, where proportionate and relevant, a clause incorporating Fair Work First Practices, including the payment of the real Living Wage <http://scottishlivingwage.org/>.

As a minimum in its regulated procurement processes the Library will promote compliance from contractors and sub-contractors with:

- The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any provisions under that Act.
- The procurement of fairly and ethically traded goods and services.

And if the procurement involves the provision of food the Library will state how the regulated procurement will:

- Improve the health, wellbeing and education of the local communities.
- Promote the highest standards of animal welfare.

Where there is a presumed impact on the community e.g. construction related contracts, the Library will consult and engage with those likely to be affected by the procurement activity.

4.5 Capability

The Library understands the importance of having the necessary procurement and commercial skills that may require refreshing to meet developing business needs.

To that end the Library will ensure funding is available within the staff training budget for procurement and commercial training, as required, to ensure that the organisation has the

procurement skills necessary to deliver the Library's planned (next 2-3 years) and longer-term procurement activity.

To ensure the training and competencies are steered in the right direction there will be annual training for all DPOs and only on successful completion will the annual DPA memo be issued.

A procurement training framework has been produced by 'Procurement' and endorsed by HR that recognises the varying procurement skills and competencies and supported levels of training.

Where there is a skills gap or a resourcing issue the Library will continue to consider utilising, on a project-by-project basis, the service offered by Scottish Government's Procurement Shared Services Team.

Professional staff within the Estates team will lead on all works / construction related procurement activity. Professional staff within the Digital team will have an input in all IS related procurements.

It is recognised that any non-complaint procurement may result in legal challenges; however, the risk is heightened when it is a regulated procurement. As a means of mitigating these risks the Library will insure the necessary internal or external resource is provided for all regulated procurements and ensure that professional external expertise is sought should there be a requirement.

5.0 Spend / Finance

'Procurement' will continue to make available quarterly for Library use procurement management information including but not exclusive to:

- Contracted v Non-Contracted spend
- Top 5 spending by supplier (value of spend)
- Top 5 spending by commodity (value of spend)
- Top 5 spending by cost centre (value of spend)
- How much we've spent with SMEs as a direct award
- How much has been spent with Supported Businesses either as a direct award or collaboratively
- Value of engagement with SMEs through the supply chain for appropriate Regulated contracts
- Number of and value of contracts awarded to SMEs following a tendered procurement
- Cash savings through adopted frameworks.

We aim to continue to target and report a contracted spend of 95% or above.

With regards to payment of contractors, on receipt of a valid invoice or similar claim, the Library will, as far as reasonably practicable, pay contractors no later than 30 days after presentation of said invoice or similar claim.

Library contract conditions require contractors who sub-contract all or part of the contract to treat their sub-contractors and sub sub-contractors in a similar manner. The condition also allows for subcontractors to approach the Library direct if the main contractor fails in his duty.

During the period of this plan Contract Managers of Library key contracts may consider monitoring prompt payment of sub-contractors by carrying out spot checks.

All future building projects contracts with a total contract value of £2m or above will include the requirement for a Project Bank Account (PBA).

6.0 Exceptions

In line with the Library's procurement policy and due to their unique nature, the acquisition of manuscripts, rare collection items and donations of any kind (excluding financial donations) cannot be purchased via standard procurement routes and are therefore outside the remit of this plan.

7.0 Implementation, monitoring, reviewing and reporting on strategies

The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (the Act) requires the Library to review its procurement plan annually; this task will reside with 'Procurement'.

The procurement plan includes for action and improvements by required dates and periods. On full endorsement of this procurement plan 'Procurement' will refresh the format and update the current Procurement Action and Improvement Plan (A&IP). The A&IP will be updated quarterly and made available on the Library SharePoint for review by the Library Leadership Team (LLT).

In accordance with the Act the Library will (if required) prepare and publish an annual procurement report covering its regulated procurement activities, as a minimum, as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year. The format of the annual report to align with Section 18(2) of the Act.

8.0 Contact details

Any questions with regards to this document should be direct in the first instance to:

Anthony Gillespie
Director of Business Support
National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1EW
a.gillespie@nls.uk

9.0 Policies, tools & procedures

['Reaching People: Library Strategy 2020-2025'](#) can be found on the Library website.

Information on the Library's procurement procedures and updates can be found on the [procurement page](#).

10.0 Glossary of Terms

APUC	Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (procurement centre expertise for Scotland's universities and colleges)
SPD(s)	The Single Procurement Document (SPD(s)) is a standard form for use, which replaces pre-qualification questionnaires, and should make the process of bidding for a public contract easier. Its purpose is to remove some of the barriers to participation in public procurement, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's). All Scottish public bodies must issue and accept the SPD (S) form for all procurement exercises above the GPA threshold.
Key contracts	Library key contracts awarded over the past 3 years for key business goods and services and the: (i) Total contract value exceeds £50k (ii) The contract term is more than 12 months long
National Institutions	Public sector cultural, museum or archive organisations similar to the Library e.g. National Museums of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, National Records of Scotland, British Library.
NDPB	Non departmental public body
NRS	National Records of Scotland
PCIP	Procurement & Commercial Improvement Programme – replaces the previous Procurement Capability Assessment. Public organisations are assessed externally every 2 years against an agreed set of metrics with scoring and performance bandings.
Procurement Journey	Scottish Government web-based toolkit intended to support all level of procurement activities and to help manage the expectations of stakeholders, customers and suppliers alike and facilitate best practice and consistency across the Scottish public sector.
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
Regulated procurements	Public contract for goods or services with total contract value of £50k and above and below GPA threshold. Public works contract with a total contract value of £2m or above and

	below GPA threshold.
SME	Small and medium sized enterprises.
Social Enterprise	Not for profit organisations. Social enterprises trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment. They make their money from selling goods and services in the open market, but they invest their profits back into the business or the local community. So, when they profit, society profits.
Supported Business	A supported business' primary aim is the social and professional integration of disabled or disadvantaged persons into the workplace. In addition, at least 30% of the employees of the business should be disabled or disadvantaged.

Author: Director of Business Support

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