

Corporate Procurement Strategy 2016/17 Consultation (Glasgow City Council)

RESPONSE

In response to the Glasgow City Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy 2016/2017 consultation, the Equality Response Forum (ERF) members observed the strategy and make following suggestions:

The Strategy states; "Procurement is one of the enabling strands" The ERF felt that it is important that businesses from across community sector to be enabled in the council's procurement business programme.

Commissioners of public services Innovate the way they operate to deliver better outcomes for local people. This could be demonstrated through for example encouraging Minority Ethnic Third Sector and Equality Services provider. It must be explored how to foster cross-sector partnerships working to deliver local, responsive, cost-effective services. The consideration of how to support small businesses and voluntary, charity and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations to bid for public contracts

The consideration of Wider Benefits including the needs of the diverse communities

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 encourages commissioners of public services to get maximum value from their procurements by considering how they can provide wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

It is important for local authorities, public sector commissioners, third sector providers, and other key stakeholders to assess the impact of the Social Value Act 2012.

Efficiency in saving is important however the value must be assessed on opportunities for all enterprises including ME community small businesses. This is what it would reflect a "Council family" Glasgow is a multi-cultural city and this reality must be a mention in the rationale so the suppliers of the services are clear from the outset. With the establishment of HSCP the Social care and Health services, it is important that the Equality provision is incorporated at the strategic level in order it cascade at the operational level. Strategic aims objective page 7 , " A city that looks after its vulnerable people it is vital that works and services are procured in the way where disadvantaged communities get opportunity to become service providers and provide service suitable for the diverse community e.g. at present the food served at hospitals to Asian patients do not taste anything like Asian food. Any approved local Asian supplier could provide the standard food thus creating jobs, business expansion and standard food for the users.

On page 7, "A vibrant City" it is encouraging that work with Community Planning and other stake holders is included in the strategy and initiative can be supported by procurement activities. The ERF is asking a question how Glasgow City Council is planning to do this. This is crucial for BAME people benefiting from procurement opportunities. Following are the suggestions to GCC further develop this aim.

The ERF discussed

1. What needs to be in place for public sector bodies to successfully embed equality into procurement?
 2. How the current system of Equality procuring or supplying goods and services by Equality cantered organisations can be improved?
- A procurement process that offers equal access to small, voluntary sector or protected characteristic led businesses (including, for example, supported businesses, which have their own focus in existing procurement guidance and regulations). This could also help to create

economic benefits locally, as smaller suppliers are more likely to be within Scotland or the local area.

- Duty to consider award criteria and conditions in relation to public procurement. Public Sector CANNOT pass their PSED responsibility on to the supplier without specifications.
- A capacity building for potential suppliers to ensure they know how to register on Public Contracts Scotland, how to engage with the process and to ensure they know support is available from the commissioning bodies.
- A function on Public Contracts Scotland to enable public bodies to search for types of organisation – e.g. local voluntary sector, social enterprise, supported businesses etc. – so that these can be considered for quick quotes.
- Workshops bringing together procurers and potential suppliers to discuss and ask questions about the procurement process.
- The needs of the Public Sector requirements for buying in services in line with the PSED and how equality centered businesses and community projects can offer to supply the ‘products’ in relation to the equality need and business opportunities.
- If wanting to accept an offer which is the most economically advantageous, must have due regard to whether the award criteria should include equality considerations
- Voluntary Sector and Minority Ethnic Small Business Capacity Building.
- Additional information and guidance for Small businesses EHRC Guide for Private Sector seems not as clear for small businesses.
- Workshops for procurers and suppliers on equality aspects of the procurement process
- Awareness and equality training sessions for trustees and directors

- Equality standard, particularly useful for smaller suppliers or those with protected characteristics - if implemented seriously and not just tick boxes.
- There is a need for an equality standard or kite mark for suppliers

- We hope the final Corporate Procurement Strategy will reflect areas of our feedback

Equality Response Forum (WSREC)

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