Report Title	Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2026–2029
Meeting	Executive
Meeting Date	29th October 2026
Report Author	Karen Spencer, Director of Resources
Directorate	Resources
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr Mohammad Hanif – Portfolio holder for Health and Leisure Services and Finance
Wards Affected	All wards
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	Appendix 1 – Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2026–2029

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents the Council's Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2026–2029 for approval. The Strategy provides a clear framework for achieving value for money, complying with procurement legislation and Council rules, strengthening commercial and contract management practice, and securing wider economic, social and environmental benefits for Pendle.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, the Committee is recommended to:

2.1 Approve the Commissioning and Procurement Strategy 2026–2029 attached at Appendix 1, subject to review by the co-operative working group.

2.2 Authorise the Director of Resources to make minor factual, legislative or presentational amendments where these do not materially change the Strategy.

2.3 Note that once the strategy is approved an action plan will be developed to support implementation.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

3.1 The current strategy requires updating to reflect the Council Plan 2026–2028, the Procurement Act 2023 and Procurement Regulations 2024, current procurement thresholds and the Council's operating environment. The proposed Strategy sets out the Council's approach to commissioning, procurement and contract management for 2026–2029. It emphasises transparent and accountable decision-making, proportionate risk management,

whole-life cost and value for money, stronger commercial capability, support for local businesses and SMEs, social value, equality, employment standards, and environmental sustainability. The Strategy also supports the Council's commitment to co-operative values by promoting openness, democratic involvement, equality, social responsibility, collaboration and service models that empower local communities.

3.2 Following approval, the Strategy will guide services when developing business cases, selecting procurement routes, managing contracts and monitoring supplier performance. An action plan will be developed to support implementation, setting out key actions, responsibilities, timescales and measures of success, with progress monitored regularly. Approval will provide a consistent, legally compliant and outcomes-focused approach to spending public money, helping the Council deliver effective services while maximising benefits for residents, communities and the local economy.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth, Housing and Healthy Communities and Preparing for Local Government Reorganisation)

4.1 The Strategy supports all five Council Plan priorities. It promotes high-quality, efficient services through robust commissioning and contract management; supports proud and connected communities through social value and community-focused service models; contributes to good growth by reducing barriers for local businesses and SMEs; supports healthier and more resilient communities through outcome-based commissioning; and assists preparation for local government reorganisation by encouraging collaboration, resilient supply chains and flexible service delivery.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct additional financial implications arising from approval of the Strategy. Effective commissioning, procurement and contract management are intended to support value for money, cost control and the delivery of savings. Any individual procurement will remain subject to the Council's approved budget, Financial Procedure Rules and relevant decision-making requirements.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The Strategy reflects the Procurement Act 2023, Procurement Regulations 2024 and other relevant legislation. Procurement activity must also comply with the Council's Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Procedure Rules and Scheme of Delegation. The Strategy will be kept under review to reflect legislative, regulatory and organisational change.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

The Strategy requires environmental impacts, carbon reduction opportunities, climate adaptation and sustainable procurement practices to be considered

where relevant and proportionate. It promotes whole-life costing, resource efficiency, reduced waste and environmentally preferable goods and services.

5.4 **Human Resources Implications**

There are no direct staffing implications arising from approval of the Strategy. Officers involved in commissioning, procurement and contract management will need to have appropriate capability, training and access to specialist advice. Relevant workforce matters, including consultation and TUPE requirements, will be considered in individual procurement exercises.

5.5 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The Strategy embeds equality considerations within commissioning and procurement. Suppliers are expected to comply with equality and human rights legislation, and service specifications and evaluations should take account of the needs of Pendle's diverse communities.

6. Consultation

6.1 The Strategy has been developed with reference to the Council Plan, Constitution, Financial Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules, Medium Term Financial Plan and relevant procurement legislation and guidance. The Council's statutory finance and legal officers and relevant service leads should be consulted before the report is finalised.

6.2 The Strategy will also be considered by the Co-operative Working Group to ensure that co-operative values and principles are appropriately reflected in the Council's commissioning and procurement approach.

7. Alternative Options Considered

Do nothing and continue without an updated Strategy. This was rejected because the existing framework would not reflect current legislation, Council priorities or the changing local government environment.

8. Statutory Officer Sign off

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	X

9. Background Documents

Council Plan 2026–2028; Council Constitution; Contract Procedure Rules; Financial Procedure Rules; Medium Term Financial Plan; Procurement Act 2023; Procurement Regulations 2024; and relevant national procurement guidance.

Contact Officers
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