

Castle Point Borough Council

Sustainable Procurement

The Council, together with its partners, have set a vision for the Borough through the Castle Point Borough Council Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2008-2011.

“We want to live within environmental limits and secure a sustainable environment for ourselves and our children. We will do so by effective community leadership, reducing our use of resources, increasing recycling and by protecting and nurturing our diverse environment.”

The Council's strategy for the Commissioning and Procurement of goods and services supports this vision by following, where possible, sustainable procurement practices by choosing products, contractors and suppliers that have high environmental performance.

Key sustainability criteria are included within all our contract specifications and the Council will promote, and seek to influence, our suppliers in the adoption of sustainable practices. This influence is extended to existing as well as potential suppliers.

We categorise sustainable procurement under two themes:

The Environment

The environmental purchasing approach of Castle Point is to ensure, where economically viable, that the Council uses materials that have the least possible impact on the environment, whether in production, delivery, use or disposal. The Council will achieve this approach through:

- Using sustainable procurement risk analysis to minimise the environmental and social impacts associated with the products and services purchased in the tendering process, including carbon footprint implications.

- Purchasing materials from sustainable sources. To this end we will ask suppliers for their environmental policies and for details of the environmentally friendly properties of their products.
- Developing and implementing a policy of waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
- Purchasing equipment that is energy efficient and taking account of the whole life cycle and associated costs and benefits.
- Purchase as little as possible.

Supporting the local community & diverse groups

The Council will encourage a diverse and competitive supply market by ensuring that local businesses are given an equal opportunity to participate in competition for Council business, whilst still maintaining a competitive supply market by:

- Including local businesses in the Council's approved lists.
- Providing clear advice and guidance to local businesses about how to bid for the Council's work.
- Encouraging the employment of local labour by the council's successful contractors.
- Reviewing how contracts are structured so as not to prejudice local businesses.
- Exploring policy options for allocation of local contracts where permissible under legislation.
- Exploring how to better engage with ethnic, disabled and other minority group suppliers.