
Elmbridge Borough Council: Public Sustainable Procurement Policy

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Elmbridge
Borough Council

Purpose of the Policy

This policy demonstrates Elmbridge Borough Council's commitment to sustainable procurement. The aim is to meet the needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that achieves value for money for the council, society and the economy, whilst minimising damage to the environment.

Elmbridge Borough Council will achieve this by focusing on environmental, social and economic benefits to the borough.

Three pillars of sustainability

The sustainable procurement definition is based on three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social, and economic.

The health of each pillar depends on that of the other two, meaning that all three must be considered in unison to achieve sustainable outcomes.

This means that it is only possible to meet the aims of, and comply with, this policy by considering all three sustainability pillars.

This approach supports the council's overall sustainability objectives.

Overall sustainability objectives

Environmental Sustainability

Elmbridge Borough Council is committed to becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and a carbon neutral borough by 2050, as set out in our [Vision 2030](#) document.

We believe that embedding sustainability within all our processes will help us to achieve this goal, and we will do so through:

- having effective sustainable procurement practice embedded within our processes. We will ensure that procurement is recognised as being vital to the delivery of the council's objectives.
- ensuring our procurement activity is outcome-focused with well-defined deliverables that cover environmental, social and economic issues such as reducing CO₂ emissions and providing opportunities for SMEs.
- engaging with our suppliers to ensure they recognise and understand their role in supporting these objectives.
- the council's teams working collaboratively to support this policy.

Developing Capability

We will develop our capabilities on sustainable procurement through:

- Developing our internal guidance on Sustainable Procurement to focus on actual delivery.
- Ensuring environmental, social and economic issues are addressed at all stages throughout the procurement lifecycle. This will be done through the adoption of specialist procurement software which will assess performance and benchmark activities throughout the life of a contract.
- Working with our suppliers collaboratively to identify joint areas for improvement.
- Benchmarking our performance on an annual basis through internal reporting.

Key Considerations

Priorities include:

- Targets to achieve 'carbon neutral' and reduce carbon emissions. Elmbridge Borough Council encourages suppliers to aim to be carbon neutral by 2030.
- Reducing consumption and waste.
- Inclusive local economic development, such as working with SMEs where possible.
- Suppliers understanding the importance of, and practicing, equal opportunities, inclusivity, and diversity in relation to staff performing our contracts.
- The supplier performs the contract in accordance with an environmental policy that aims to conserve resources and reduce waste.

Key Focus Areas

Key areas of focus for sustainable procurement will be:

- Energy - suppliers will have a commitment to reduce their energy consumption and be committed to switching to low-carbon energy.
- Transport - suppliers will have a commitment to switch to low or zero emission modes of transport.
- Purchased goods - it is recommended that products meet the minimum Government Buying Standards.
- Water - suppliers seek to minimise the use of water and use water efficient equipment and services wherever possible.