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**To: Cabinet Member Strategic Finance and Resources**

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013**

**Subject: Progress against the Procurement Strategy 2010-2015**

## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member Strategic Finance and Resources of the outcome of the discussions that took place at the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Scrutiny Board (1) held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board welcomed the report. The Board did not make any additional recommendations to the Cabinet Member.

## **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board considered this report alongside a paper setting out the approach to developing a Social Value Policy for the Council.
- 3.2 The Board questioned officers on a range of issues including:
- how savings targets are set and monitored, including savings targets which are allocated directly against the Commissioning and Procurement FSR and other savings targets to which procurement activity contributes;
  - the effectiveness of governance arrangements and the extent of compliance;
  - how we can ensure procurement activity supports local jobs and companies within the legislative framework, including when subcontracting is involved;
  - how equality and diversity can be addressed in procurement activity and how the Social Value Policy will support this; and
  - how cost and quality considerations are balanced in decision-making;
- 3.3 In addition, the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) had met on 13<sup>th</sup> November to review support to business investment in Coventry. Representatives from the Chamber and Federation of Small Businesses attended and had identified procurement and access to public sector contracts in particular as issues that could support local small and medium sized enterprises. They made some positive comments about some of the approaches being taken by the City Council through its procurement activity such as improving access to tenders, breaking large contracts into smaller lots, not setting prohibitively high liability levels and the new e-tendering system operating across Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.
- 3.4 The Board was keen for the City Council and other partners to see how the good practice that we have developed can be promoted across other public sector bodies and agreed this recommendation as one of the outcomes of their meeting.