



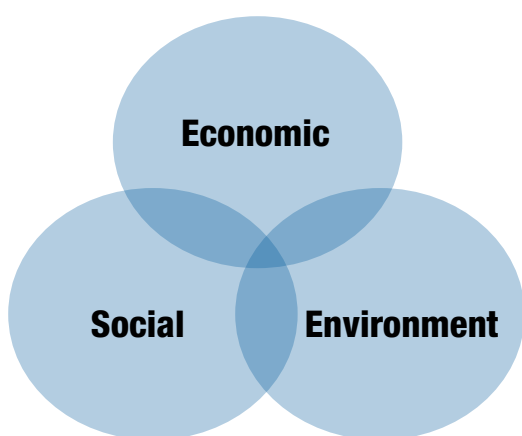
Sustainable Procurement and the role of Councillors

Buying goods and services in a way that achieves whole life value for money, minimises damage to the environment, provides benefits to society and improves the economy.

Influencing health & accessibility, employment, education & training, the local economy and fair trade, equality & diversity issues, poverty, waste and recycling...



London Fire Brigade Reducing waste



The Scale of the Issue in London...

Councils spend over £10bn buying in goods and services, providing significant potential for improvement...

1 in 6 Londoner's of working age have a disability...

Over 200,000 people are unemployed in the Capital...

25% of London businesses are black or Asian-owned (BME). Many are small to medium enterprises (SME)'s.....

London produces 44 million tonnes of CO₂ each year ...

Londoners generate 1.5 tonnes of waste every year...

Sustainable Procurement can...

Make efficiency savings

How? Energy, water and resource efficiency are Quick Wins delivering savings and reducing the impacts.

Reduce waste

How? Using recycled content in highways & construction projects, office stationery and furniture, reducing waste and meeting recycling targets.

The London Fire Brigade identified 70% of its furniture from an office move could be re-used, and delivered a 50% saving.

Meet climate change targets

How? Low-emission vehicles improve local air quality; green electricity and energy efficient buildings can reduce carbon emissions.

By switching to green electricity, Brent Council reduced its CO₂ emissions by 3,500 T/yr.

Deliver social objectives

How? Select suppliers on sustainability benefits such as employment of disadvantaged groups; and encourage job creation, improved working conditions, and social inclusion through contract requirements.

Camden's temporary staff contract improved opportunities for social enterprises, SME/BME businesses and to train and employ local people.

Improve the local economy

How? Local contractors and suppliers deliver greater retention & circulation of money in the local area. SME's can respond to demands more quickly, flexibly & innovatively.

Islington's Business Enterprise Team helped local business and community groups benefit from the £800m Arsenal Development and other major developments.



Key Targets & Drivers

- The UK Sustainable Development Strategy sets the goal of the UK becoming a leader within the EU on sustainable procurement by 2009.
- The local government sustainable procurement action plan sets out how the sector will rise to this challenge.
- The Comprehensive Area Assessment includes sustainability performance indicators.
- Local councils are expected to make 3% efficiency savings over the CSR07 period.
- Significant financial penalties will be levied for missed EU targets on biodegradable municipal waste landfill limits.

Local authorities can lead on Sustainable Procurement by:

- Raising awareness of sustainability, building capacity and prioritising their sustainability objectives.
- Providing guidance to budget holders, procurement staff, senior management and elected members.
- Nominating champions to lead and take action on sustainable procurement within their organisation.
- Awarding contracts on the basis of whole life costs.
- Collaborating and using category management to provide maximum opportunity and savings.
- Using quick win specifications developed by central government & other public bodies.

Sustainable Procurement and the Efficiency Agenda

Efficiency and sustainability can be achieved through investing to save. Short-term cost cutting measures that ignore whole-life costs and fitness for purpose may prove to be more costly.

Public procurement must comply with value for money policy and EU law.

Sustainable procurement is compatible with the efficiency agenda.

EU procurement regulations

Public sector procurement is regulated by complex EU rules, and care is needed when incorporating sustainability factors into contracts and supplier selection.

What can elected members do to promote Sustainable Procurement?

- Make sustainable procurement a strategic priority. Ensure your authority has the capacity and capability to embed sustainability.
- Ensure your corporate procurement strategy delivers your Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.
- Check that major procurements address sustainability and key suppliers recognise their role in delivering sustainability.
- Lead value for money reviews and ensure that sustainability is addressed.
- Identify opportunities for sustainability to deliver improved value for money through scrutiny.
- Ensure that lessons are learned, and successes are promoted.
- Talk to local business about how to make it easier to do business with the council.

Key messages for Councillors

- Elected members have a crucial role in delivering Sustainable Procurement.
- Sustainable is more than just “green” and it does not equal “expensive.”
- Ensure ownership of your authority’s commitment.
- Sustainable Procurement is key to meeting central and local government goals and targets.
- Help make sustainable procurement the “standard”, not just an afterthought.

