

**DRAFT**

**FAIRNESS AND  
EQUALITY IN  
PROCUREMENT**

**POLICY STATEMENT  
PRESTON CITY COUNCIL**

**September 2006**

# Policy Statement

## VISION

**The Council's vision is to deliver significantly better quality public services that meet the needs of all local citizens.**

*(Corporate Procurement Strategy 2004- 2007)*

## AIMS

**To deliver the vision by promoting effective procurement throughout the Council**

*(Corporate procurement Strategy 2004-7)*

## Introduction

Procurement is the process of acquiring goods, works and services from a third party to achieve the optimum combination of costs and benefits to meet the needs of the Council and its stakeholders.

As a public body, the Council must discharge its duties in a legal, responsible and non-discriminatory way.

Getting procurement right is essential to securing the delivery of efficient, quality services in Preston and its communities. How effectively we procure will have considerable influence on the successful achievement of Council priorities and towards making a lasting difference to the services we provide.

## Objectives

Two of the Council's procurement objectives are ;

- To ensure that the procurement activities reflect the Council's approach to equality.
- To fulfil the Council's duty of ' Best Value'.

The Council aims to fulfil those objectives by;

- Promoting equality and fairness through its procurement processes and practices
- Striving to ensure equal opportunities for all, when procuring goods, works or services.

- Purchasing works and services from contractors who can demonstrate a commitment to making sure that their employees and their customers are not discriminated against because of age, sex or sexuality as well as race, colour, ethnic origin or religion.
- Securing fair employment terms and conditions for comparable employees when purchasing works or services.
- Securing compliance with our duty to provide works and services that demonstrate Best Value, whilst ensuring that our policies support diversity and do not lead to unfair discrimination or social exclusion.
- Recognising the connection between service quality and the management of workforce issues. Good quality works/services depend on appropriately skilled and motivated workforces. Neglecting relevant workforce matters in order to drive down costs could have adverse effects on the desired quality and value for money.
- Undertaking transparent, open and fair procurement.

### **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Procurement Manager. Monitoring of the policy as applied in individual contract situations will be the responsibility of the individual contract manager.

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