

# **Procurement of Personal Protective Equipment during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**REPORT TO;** Assistant Chief Executive (Business Support), Human Resources and Organisational Development (CSD), Justine Brooksbank

**DECISION DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

**SUPPORTING ANNEX;** This report includes a supporting Annex which contains exempt information as described in paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## **PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION**

The recommendation is to approve that a two pronged approach is now taken. Firstly, working with the service areas to maintain the most accurate forecasting data, with the Council spot purchasing to cover the short term requirements. Secondly, a collaboration with at least 14 other Councils, between YPO and the Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Procurement Group, will be used to undertake a joint procurement of various PPE items. This will provide stock up to the end of the year.

The Council will not be bound by the collaboration agreement if pricing is not deemed competitive, and approval given to continue to spot buy where appropriate.

## **BACKGROUND TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION**

The Covid-19 pandemic has and will continue to have a profound and far reaching impact across all areas of life in the UK. One key impact on the Council has the surge in demand for PPE to protect staff against risk of infection.

The initial response at the outset of the crisis amounted to a continuing cycle of spot buying. It is proposed that a two pronged approach is now taken. Firstly, using the most up to date accurate forecasting data, the Council spot purchases PPE items to cover short term requirements to take stock up to the end of June 2020.

This constitutes the use of direct awards due to reasons of extreme urgency for short term stock, and the use of public sector frameworks for medium to longer term stock.

COVID-19 is serious and its consequences pose a risk to life. Regulation 32(2)(c) of the PCRs is designed to deal with this sort of short term requirement in an emergency situation.

This report covers the spend from 01 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, via the recommended option above.

## **LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE**

In responding to the impact and exceptional circumstances of COVID-19 the Council has needed to procure PPE with extreme urgency from suppliers known and unknown to us. This is permissible under current public procurement regulations using Regulation 32(2)(c).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Authority as detailed in above recommendation to approve a two-pronged approach via YPO collaborative exercise based on the forecasting process with the Service Areas, and where items are not competitively priced further direct awards to known suppliers.