



Governance Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 18 June 2026

Annual Procurement Report

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1. To provide Governance Scrutiny Group with an overview of procurement activity undertaken during 2024/25 and 2025/26, including performance and compliance, and to present an update on the Procurement Strategy 2026–2030, including a summary of the associated action plan.

1.2. This report has not been considered at any other committee.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Governance Scrutiny Group scrutinises the procurement activity and performance for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1. The report provides assurance that procurement activity is being delivered in a compliant and effective manner and that the Council has a clear strategic framework in place to enhance procurement outcomes, governance, and value for money.

4. Supporting Information

Overview of Procurement Activity

4.1. Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) has recently approved a new Procurement Strategy, effective from April 2026. The strategy includes an action plan aimed at improving performance and ensuring alignment with the requirements of PA23 (Appendix 2). As there is limited historical data available, a baseline will be established for which 2026/27 KPIs will be measured.

4.2. RBC has worked in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) since October 2023, with a contract in place until March 2028 to provide procurement services.

4.3. Procurement activity has been delivered in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015), the Procurement Act 2023, and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

- 4.4. During the period 2024/25 and 2025/26:
- 37 contracts were awarded in 2024/25 with a total value of approximately £4.5m
 - 17 contracts were awarded in 2025/26 with a total value of approximately £3.8m
 - 11 procurement projects remain in progress with an estimated value of £3.66m.
- 4.5. A significant proportion of contracts were delivered via established frameworks, ensuring compliance and efficiency, with additional routes including open tender, quotations and direct award.

SME and Local Supplier Engagement

- 4.6. Procurement activity has supported local economic growth:
- 20 contracts in 2024/25 and 12 contracts in 2025/26 were awarded to SMEs
 - Local supplier engagement remains a key focus, with contracts awarded to Nottinghamshire-based organisations where appropriate.
- 4.7. In addition, Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS) for landscaping and minor construction works have been established, supporting SME participation and local supply chains.

Governance, Performance and Partnership Working

- 4.8. The partnership with NCC provides ongoing commercial advice, procurement oversight and regular reporting, including monthly service review meetings and engagement with key Council forums such as regeneration board meetings.
- 4.9. Regular reporting and engagement ensure:
- Compliance with procurement legislation and best practice
 - Identification of opportunities for improvement
 - Effective contract management and delivery.

Implementation of the Procurement Act 2023

- 4.10. The Procurement Act 2023 came into effect in February 2025, introducing changes in transparency, contract management, and reporting requirements.
- 4.11. NCC has supported the Council through:
- Delivery of training sessions for officers and Members
 - Development of new procurement templates
 - Updates to Contract Procedure Rules aligned with the new legislation and the Procurement Strategy 2026–2030.

Procurement Strategy 2026–2030

- 4.12. The Procurement Strategy 2026–2030 sets out the Council’s long-term approach to procurement, aligning with national legislation and the Council’s corporate priorities.
- 4.13. The strategy establishes procurement as a strategic enabler to deliver:
- Value for money services
 - Social value and community benefits
 - Sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
- 4.14. Key themes within the strategy include:
- Governance and compliance
 - Equality, accessibility and inclusion
 - Social value and environmental sustainability
 - Contract management and cyber security
 - Supplier engagement and continuous improvement.
- 4.15. The strategy reflects a broader definition of value, incorporating quality, environmental impact, and social outcomes alongside cost.

Action Plan Summary (2026–2030)

- 4.16. The Procurement Strategy is supported by a structured action plan focused on strengthening procurement maturity and delivery (Appendix 2).
- 4.17. Key areas of focus include:
- Governance and leadership (strengthening oversight, reporting and member engagement)
 - Engaging officers (embedding procurement into governance and day-to-day processes)
 - Engaging senior managers (leadership involvement, training and early procurement planning)
 - Working with partners (collaboration with NCC and other organisations)
 - Engaging strategic suppliers (supplier relationships, pipeline visibility and contract register)
 - Creating commercial opportunities (innovation, value for money and financial performance)
 - Managing contracts and relationships (performance management and continuous improvement)
 - Managing strategic risk (risk identification, compliance and resilience)
 - Creating social value (embedding wider community benefits into procurement)
 - SME and VCSE engagement (supporting smaller and local suppliers).
- 4.18. Overall, the action plan aims to improve procurement maturity, increase transparency, and maximise the wider benefits delivered through Council spend.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

- 5.1. There are no risks directly related to this report. Scrutiny does provide an opportunity to review a higher-level processes undertaken and that the objectives and associated targets of the Council's Procurement Strategy are being delivered.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

Effective procurement supports the achievement of value for money and ensures the efficient use of Council resources. The use of frameworks, strategic sourcing, and improved contract management will continue to support financial sustainability.

The cost of procurement support provided by NCC is included in the budget. For 25/26 this was £32,500.

6.2. Legal Implications

All procurement activity must comply with the Procurement Act 2023, associated regulations, and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Changes introduced under the new legislation have been incorporated into practice and governance arrangements.

6.3. Equalities Implications

The Procurement Strategy embeds equality, accessibility, and inclusion within procurement processes, including compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and accessible standards.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

No direct implications have been identified. However, procurement processes consider community safety where relevant.

6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

The Procurement Strategy includes commitments to environmental sustainability and reducing environmental impact through procurement, which contributes to biodiversity and environmental outcomes.

6.6. Local Government Reorganisation

There are no Local Government Reorganisation implications associated with this report.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The report supports delivery of all of the Council's corporate priorities
Quality of Life	
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	

8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Governance Scrutiny Group scrutinises the procurement activity and performance for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

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Background papers available for inspection:	Procurement Strategy 2026 to 2030 Cabinet 10 March 2026
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 End of Year Procurement Report Appendix 2 Action Plan



End of Year Procurement Report – 2024/25 and 2025/26

Executive Summary

1.1 Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) has been working with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as its procurement service provider since 1 October 2023 and has a contract in place until 31 March 2028.

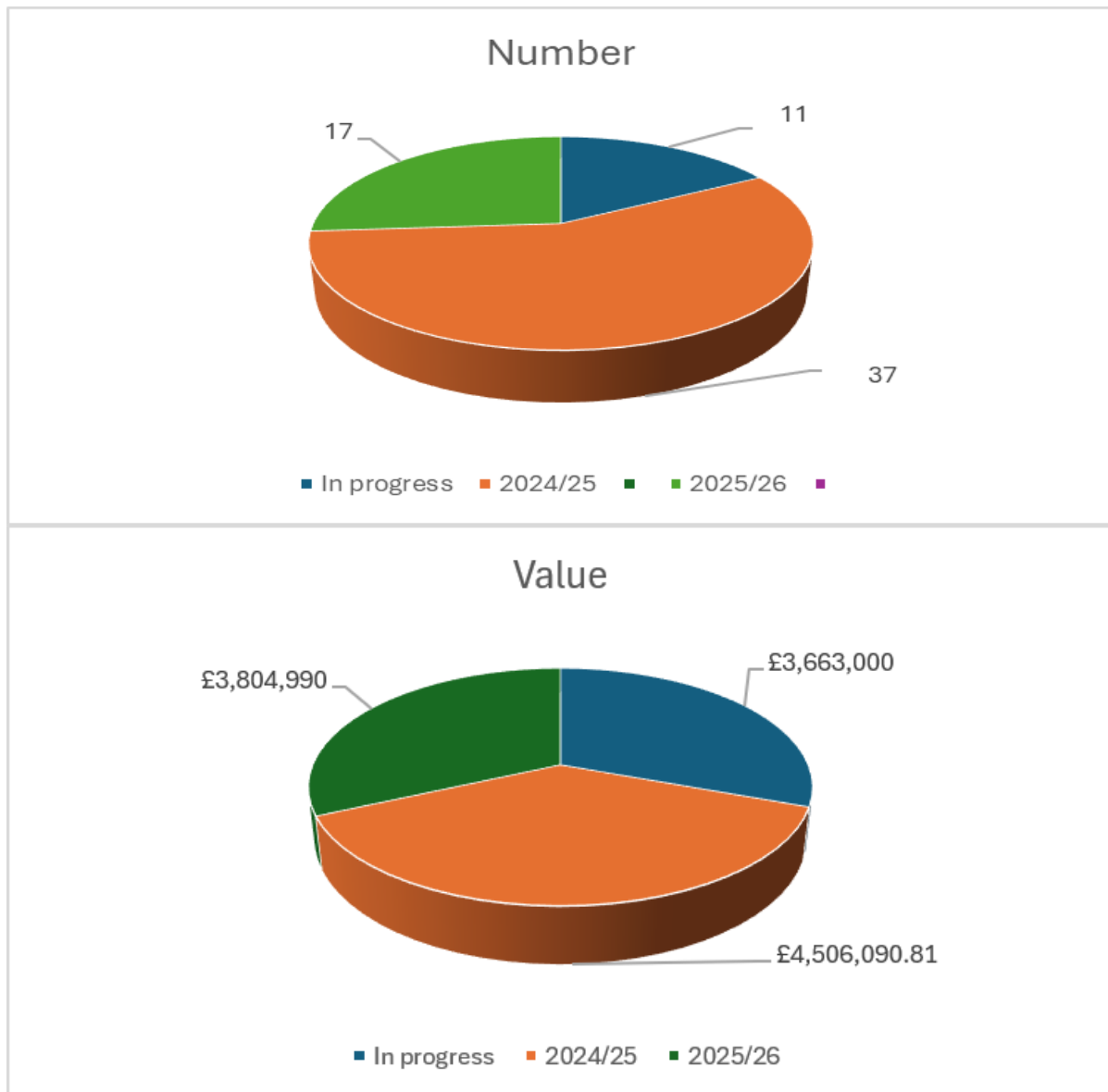
1.2 Both councils have worked closely together to ensure projects are procured compliantly in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015), the Procurement Act 2023 and RBC's Contract Procedure Rules.

1.3 This report summarises activity over the last two financial years and is provided in line with the action plan within the Procurement Strategy 2026–2030, including the theme of engaging officers.

Operational performance 2024/25 and 2025/26

	Number	Value	Number & Value to SMEs	Number & Value to Local Suppliers	Route to Market
Number of projects currently in progress	11	£3,663,000	N/A	N/A	6 via Framework 1 via quotes 3 via open tender 1 via direct award
Number of Contracts awarded 2024/25	37	£4,506,090.81	20 - £2,360,212.84	7 - £908,266.79	19 via Framework 10 via quotes 6 via open tender 2 via direct award
Number of Contracts awarded 2025/26	17	£3,804,990	12 - £1,073,950.27	2- £76,648.63	10 via Framework 1 via quotes 4 via open tender 2 via direct award

Operational Performance Charts 2024/25 and 2025/26



1.4 In addition to the procurement projects set out above, two Dynamic Purchasing Systems (DPS) have been established for use by Ashfield, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe, covering (1) landscaping services and green spaces and (2) minor construction works.

1.5 Alongside establishing Nottinghamshire frameworks, NCC provides commercial procurement advice on the use of other frameworks to ensure compliance and best value for money.

1.6 Regular reports are provided and monthly service review meetings are held to address issues promptly and identify new opportunities. This is supported by ongoing communication between NCC's Category Manager and Rushcliffe's Assistant Director of Finance.

1.7 Where required, NCC attends regeneration board meetings to advise on future projects.

Procurement Act 2023

1.8 The Procurement Act 2023 came into effect on 24 February 2025 and introduced significant changes to procurement, particularly around contract management and the publication of notices. Over the last two financial years, NCC has delivered a number of training sessions for RBC and developed new templates to support implementation of the Act.

1.9 NCC has also supported RBC to update its Contract Procedure Rules, aligning them with the Procurement Act 2023 and the Procurement Strategy 2026–2030.

1.10 RBC's Contract Procedure Rules, Procurement Strategy and training arrangements all support compliance with the Procurement Act 2023. Regular checks are also undertaken to ensure all notices have been completed and contracts added to the contract register, helping to ensure RBC remains compliant.

Financial year 2026/27

1.12 RBC and NCC will continue to work in partnership. Ambitions for this financial year, in line with the action plan, include:

- Engaging officers – working with the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, and the Assistant Director of Finance to produce governance reports.
- Engaging senior managers – providing monthly reports and holding monthly service review meetings.
- Engaging managers – providing annual training sessions to ensure managers remain up to date with any changes.
- Working with partners – hosting at least one annual event aimed at local suppliers and SMEs, to share forward plans across the district and borough councils we work with and identify opportunities to collaborate.
- Engaging strategic suppliers – working with key stakeholders at RBC to support development of the procurement pipeline and keep the contract register up to date, enabling suppliers to plan and engage early on future projects.
- Managing contracts and relationships – continuing to host a contract management group for partner districts and boroughs to support shared learning and training.
- Creating social value – applying Match My Project on appropriate procurements and reporting back on outcomes.

- SME and VCSE engagement – this will be included within the supplier engagement event delivered by NCC.
- Social value – using Match My Project on RBC tenders run by NCC. This is a new initiative and, therefore, no figures are yet available on uptake.