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Procurement – Progress update on achieving the Procurement Flexible Framework

Purpose:	For information
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Action/decision required:	To note the contents

Introduction

The main aim of this project is to assist the procurement team in reducing the overall carbon footprint of the University by following the policy guideline stated within the ‘Sustainable Procurement in Government: Guidance to the Flexible Framework’ developed by Defra.

Flexible Framework

The Flexible Framework is a widely used self-assessment mechanism developed by the business-led Sustainable Procurement Task Force, which allows organisations to measure and monitor their progress on sustainable procurement over time.

The framework was designed so that it could be used by all organisations: from those with significant levels of procurement expertise and resource to those with very limited resource at their disposal. Many universities who aim to manage and reduce the carbon associated with their procurement activities use this framework to guide their decision making and progress.

Progress to date

Following a review on the current progress this student project was specified to focus particularly on the development of the Engaging suppliers Category. It was decided to complete to Level 4 as it would provide a solid base and example for the following categories of People, Policy Strategy and Communications, Procurement Process and Measurements and Results to follow.

For this project to be successful it has been suggested to use the NETPositive Futures Engaging Suppliers tool as it would help cover many aspects of the criteria stated. In doing so many of the current suppliers and organisations would have the opportunity to follow a specified action plan and prioritize the main sustainability issues. The University would monitor and review the progression of the sustainability status of each company. This would be a beneficial investment as all supplying companies would contribute in reducing not only the University’s carbon footprint overall but also for themselves. As a result this would be expanding the interest of a more sustainable attitude within surrounding communities. Also there would be a more established bilateral communication system between the University and its suppliers. Therefore, there would be a mutual benefit as both organisations would receive feedback and ideas on how to incorporate and enhance more sustainable actions.