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Variable Measurement

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Argyll and Bute Council's Procurement, Commercial and Contract Management Team (PCCMT) would like to begin this report by thanking all stakeholders who took the time to respond to our consultation in relation to the Procurement Strategy

- Ensuring procurement activity contributes towards the Council's general Equality Duty towards all stakeholders in Argyll and Bute and beyond;
- Continuing to promote sustainability, fair work practices and the importance of equality and equal treatment through procurement;
- Setting out clear and achievable strategic objectives which support delivery of the Council's wider goals and objectives; and
- Making sure we continue to investigate and develop purchase to pay systems to improve our procurement methods.

2.2 Sustainable Procurement Policy

The Argyll and Bute Council Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25 sets out the direction for the Council and builds on existing sustainability practice. The Policy covers the three strands of sustainability: environmental, social and economic and aims to meet the substantial challenges of balancing the complexities of sustainable procurement within today's economic climate and continued drive for best value.

2.3 The Council has a statutory requirement to update and publish both its Procurement Strategy and its Sustainable Procurement Policy on an annual basis following the key changes introduced by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Procurement (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

2.4 The Council also has a requirement to consult with key stakeholder groups for both of these documents. The aims of the consultation were:

- To increase awareness of the Council's Procurement Strategy and Sustainable Procurement Policy and engage meaningfully with key stakeholder groups;
- To make sure the links between the strategy and policy and other relevant strategies and plans are clear; and
- To enable a diverse range of stakeholder groups to take part and thereby influence the strategy and policy.

2.5 The consultation was completed in November 2021, via a web-based survey on the Council's website. The consultation was publicised via emails to key internal and external stakeholders, as well as being available to the general public through the "Keep me in the Loop" service. Appendix 1 details the consultation questions asked and Appendix 2 details the responses received.

The Policy has been updated as follows:

- Section 5.1 Priorities – 3(e) Process (Page 53)

To provide procurement support to any strategic decisions taken by the Council in relation to the usage of Single Use Plastic products and their recyclability.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Although limited stakeholder responses were received, these included well-considered comments which we have found very valuable. The strategy has been streamlined in response to the comments and we have ensured that all matters highlighted by stakeholders have been included.

- b. The format made it easy to follow
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

- c. The strategy is comprehensive
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

- d. The key priorities are clear
 - Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neither Agree or Disagree
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree

STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

- 4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of how the Procurement Strategy should address them.

KEY PRIORITIES:

Twelve key priorities for regulated procurements have been identified in the Strategy, in line with Section 15(5) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

5. Do you consider the activities relating to these key priorities to be appropriate for the Council?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Don't know

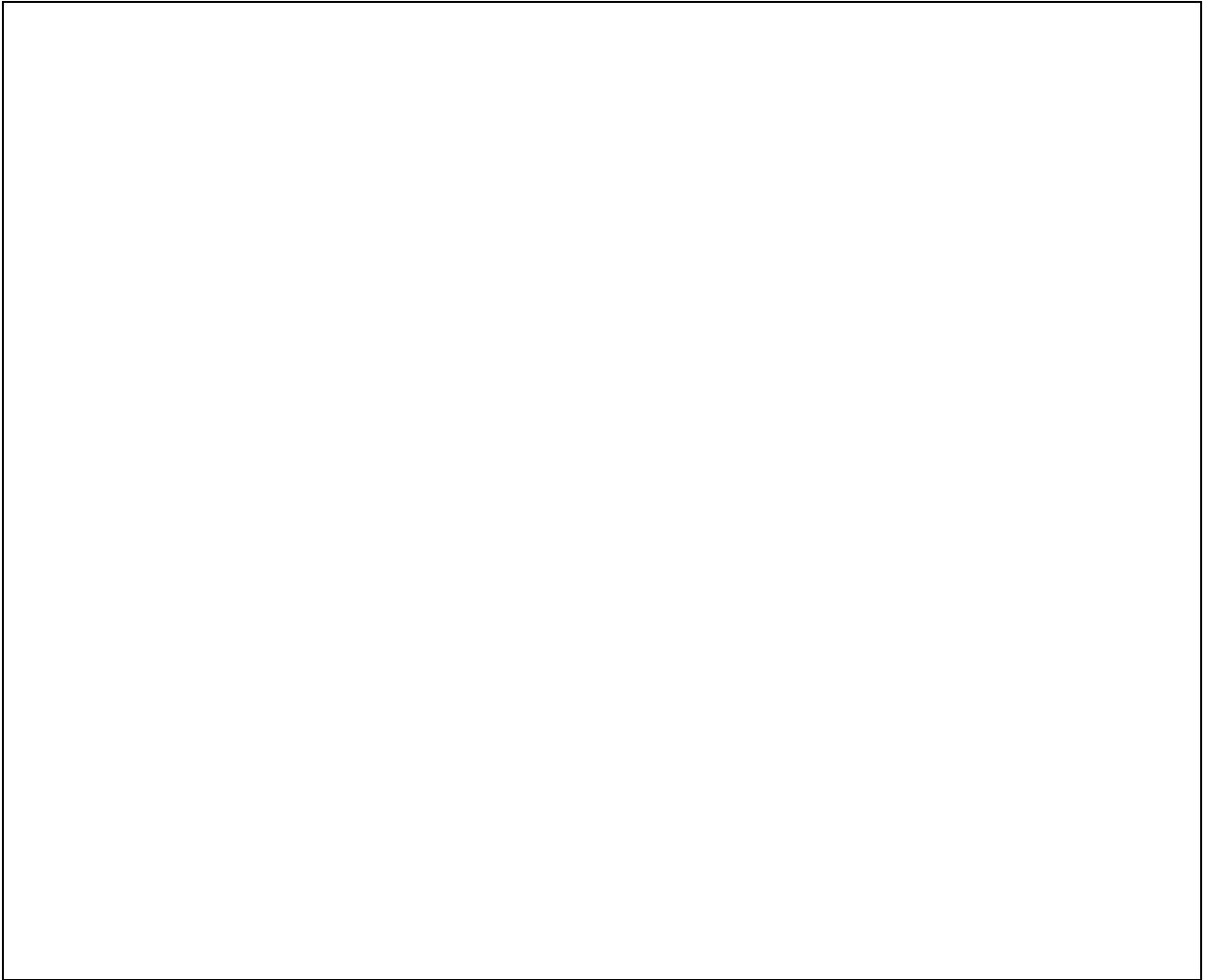
6. Would you propose an additional or alternative key priority or activity in relation to regulated procurements?

PRIORITIES:

9. Within the 5 priority areas identified within the Sustainable Procurement Policy (People;

COMMENTS

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25?



SURVEY RESPONSES

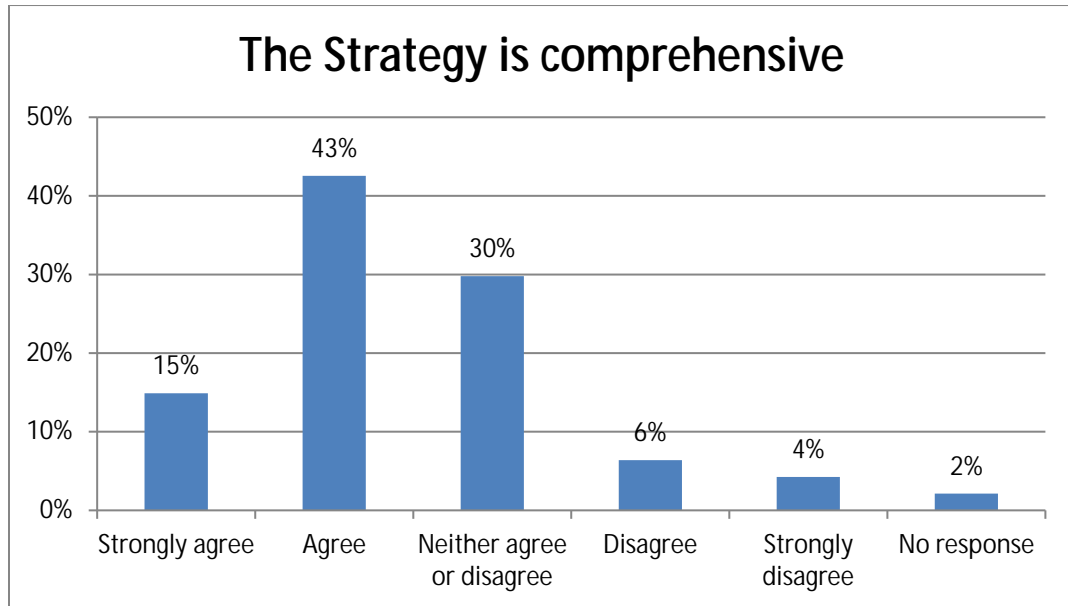
47 responses were received to the consultation survey. Last year's consultation received 92 responses to the survey.

1. Please indicate which key stakeholder group(s) you belong to:

Stakeholder Groups	2021 Respondents
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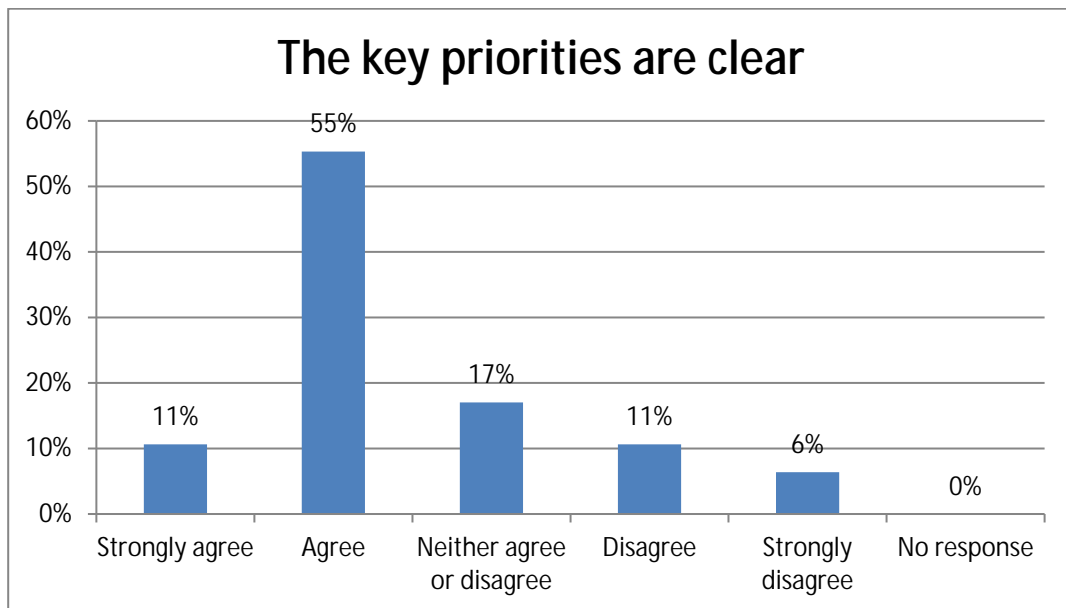
c. The strategy is comprehensive

58% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the Procurement Strategy is comprehensive; while 10% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.



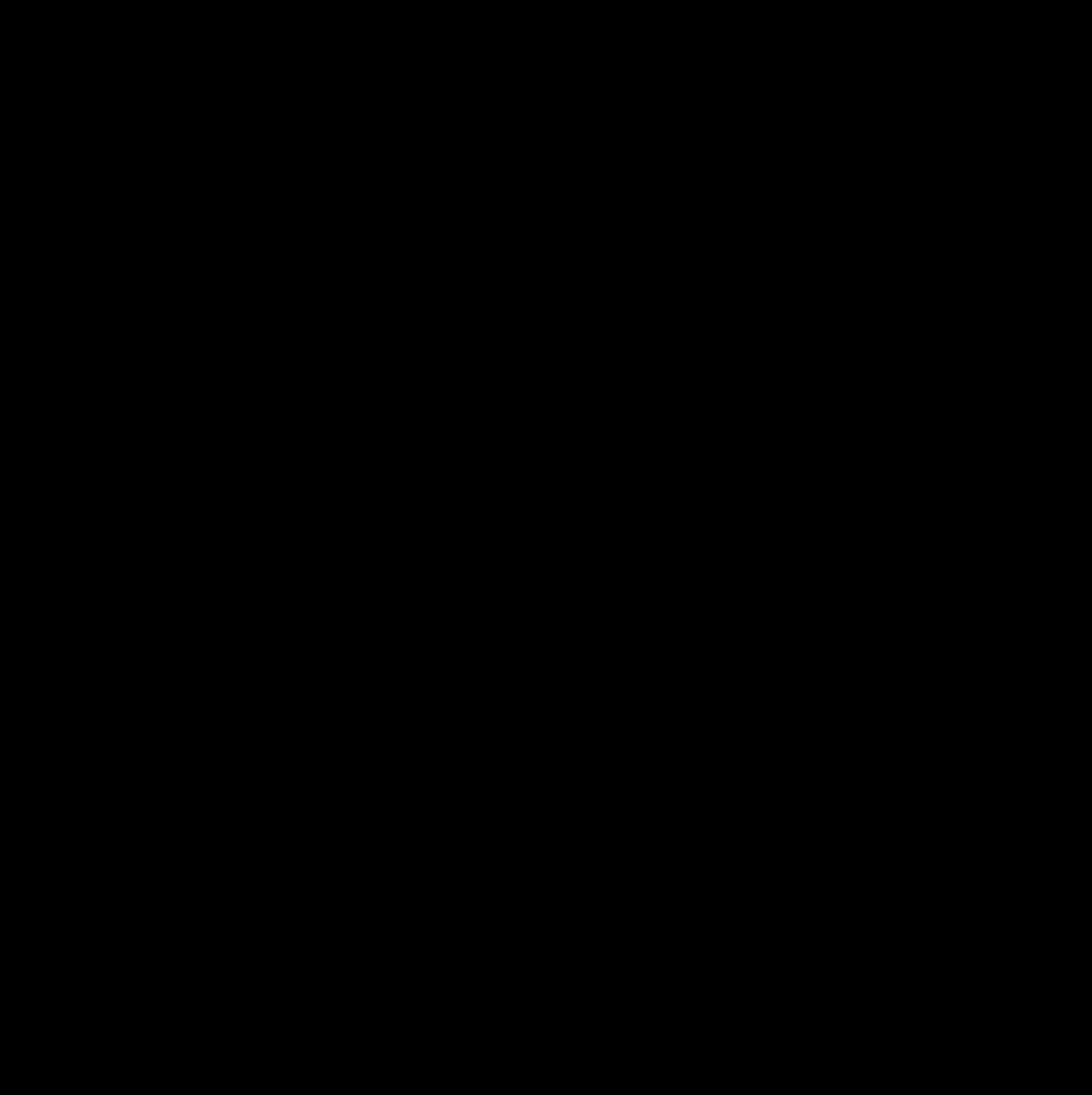
d. The key priorities are clear

66% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the key priorities within the Strategy are clear; while 17% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed.



STRATEGIC CONTEXT:

4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of



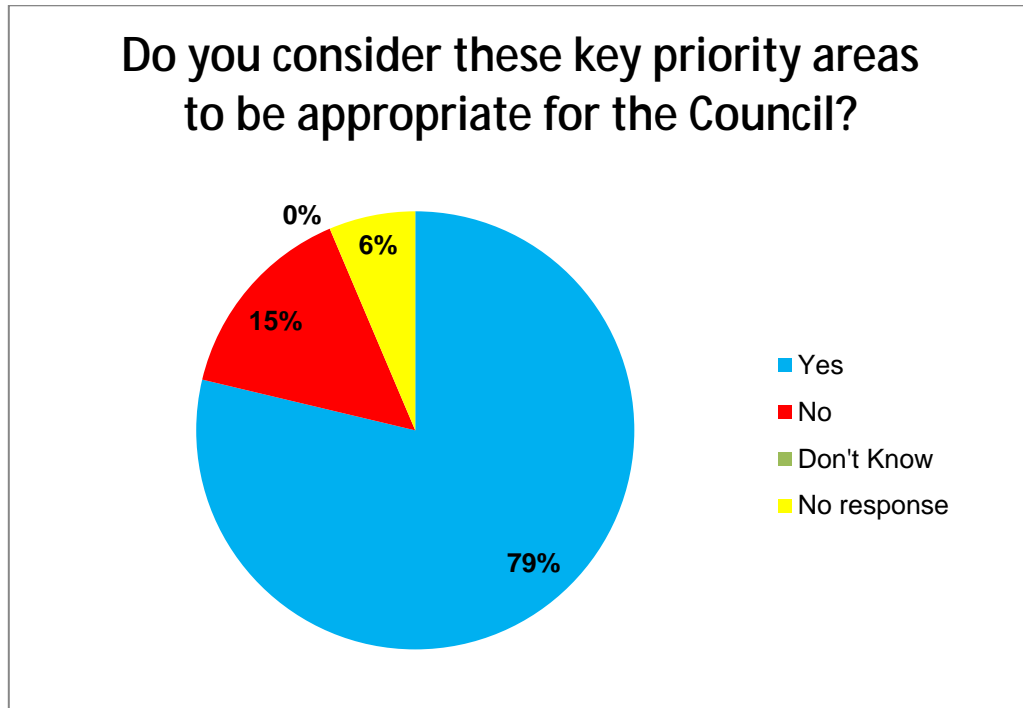
4. Are there any strategic issues which the Strategy has not considered? If yes, please identify them below and give details of how the Procurement Strategy should address them. /contd

KEY PRIORITIES:

Twelve key priorities for regulated procurements have been identified in the Strategy, in line with Section 15(5) of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014.

5. Do you consider the activities relating to these key priorities to be appropriate for the Council?

79% of respondents agreed that the key priority areas are appropriate for the Council; 15% of respondents disagreed.



6. Would you propose an additional or alternative key priority or activity in relation to regulated procurements?

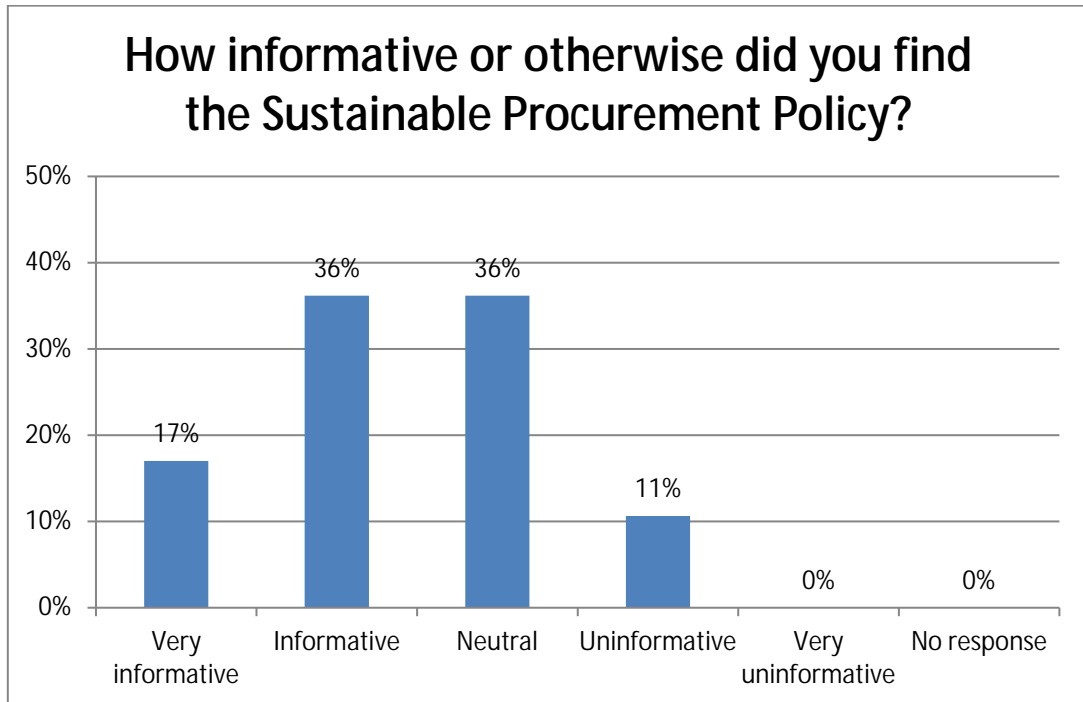
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SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT POLICY 2022/25

GENERAL:

7. How informative or otherwise did you find the Sustainable Procurement Policy?

53% of respondents found the Sustainable Procurement Policy to be either informative or very informative; only 11% found it to be uninformative or very uninformative



8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to the Policy?

a. The policy was easy to read

62% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the Sustainable Procurement Policy was easy to read; while 19% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

c. The policy is comprehensive

60% of respondents indicated that they either strongly agreed or agreed that the Sustainable Procurement Policy is comprehensive, while 8% disagreed or strongly

PRIORITIES:

- 9. Within the 5 priority areas identified within the Sustainable Procurement Policy (People; Objectives, Strategy & Communications; Process; Engaging Stakeholders; and Monitoring & Reporting) we have identified various specific priorities, do you consider these to be the right priorities for Sustainable Procurement within the Council?**

40%

10. Are there any additional priorities we should include in relation to Sustainable Procurement? / contd

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the draft Procurement Strategy 2022/25 and Sustainable Procurement Policy 2022/25? / contd

