

Committee	Finance and General Policy Committee
Subject	Procurement Policy
Action requested	<input type="checkbox"/> For information only <input type="checkbox"/> For discussion <input type="checkbox"/> For recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> For endorsement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For approval (subject to the content being subsequently reformatted to align with the College's standard policy template)
Summary of the paper	<p>This policy, and its subsequent publication on the College's website, will align the College with Scottish Government [SG] legislation / strategic objectives.</p> <p>It is a mandatory obligation for public institutions in Scotland with regulated procurement spend of £5 million or more and compliance is deemed best practice for institutions that fall below the threshold.</p> <p>The SG has identified the following benefits from implementation:</p> <p><u>Strategic Focus and Compliance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public institutions in Scotland are required by the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 to create and publish a procurement strategy if their regulated procurement spend is £5 million⁽¹⁾ or more per year. The strategy provides a clear, strategic focus for procurement activities, aligning them with the organisation's aims and objectives, and ensuring value for money. It sets out how the organisation will carry out regulated procurements, comply with the sustainable procurement duty, and deliver broader social, economic, and environmental benefits. <p><u>Transparency and Accountability:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing the strategy ensures transparency and public accountability in how public funds are spent. It allows stakeholders - including the public, suppliers, and government - to understand procurement priorities, practices, and expected outcomes. <p><u>Alignment with National Priorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement strategies must align with national frameworks like the National Performance Framework and Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, supporting government policy and legislative priorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They help deliver wider social benefits, such as supporting local economies, promoting fair work, encouraging SME and third sector participation, and contributing to climate and equality goals. <p><u>Continuous Improvement and Collaboration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies are reviewed annually to ensure ongoing improvement, adaptability, and alignment with changing needs and priorities. They foster collaboration across public bodies, supporting shared goals and efficient, effective procurement practices. <p>⁽¹⁾ Regulated procurement spend is expenditure on contracts for goods and services or works equal or more than</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Goods & services => £50k (excl. VAT) b) Works => £2m (excl. VAT) <p>The total for the College is not currently available, but Other Operating Expenditure is expected to be £5.9m in the year ahead.</p>
Resource implications	None
Risk implications	Mitigation of a range of internal control and process risks for the College.
Date paper prepared	22 nd May 2025
Date of Board / Committee meeting	5 th June 2025
Author	Kevin Mallett, Head of Finance
Link with strategy Please highlight how the paper links to the Strategic Plan	Meets compliance obligations
Island communities	N/a
Status (e.g., confidential, non-confidential)	Non confidential
Freedom of information	Yes
Consultation How has consultation with partners been conducted?	The policy was drafted by Amanda Mackenzie, [Head of Procurement – UHI Shared Service, APUC], with input and review from Kevin Mallett [Finance] and Julie Foster [Procurement].

Recommendation – To approve acceptance of the policy.