Sustainability Policy

The key driver for Procurement is to seek to maximise value for money in the procurement of goods and services whilst ensuring that operational requirements are fulfilled and statutory obligations met. However there is also a social dimension to our work, through our relationships with suppliers and the local communities in which we operate. We are therefore committed to understanding and managing the environmental and social impacts of our operations, including the procurement of goods and services.

Ensuring sustainability is embedded across procurement is essential to our goal of making a sustainable contribution to society. This policy explains how OUH Trust will integrate environmental and social considerations into its procurement policies and practices.

We recognise that improving our procurement performance is an ongoing process and that our suppliers, both large and small, are important partners in our journey to become more sustainable.

Our aims and objectives are to:

- Minimise our environmental impact and deliver community benefits through better selection and improved usage of products and services
- Foster innovation in our supply markets to increase the availability and effectiveness of sustainable solutions that meet our organisational requirements
- Encourage our suppliers to adopt practices that minimise their environmental impact and deliver community benefits in relation to their own operations and throughout the supply chains in which they operate
- Work in partnership with suppliers to achieve our common goals and continually improve performance over time.
- Aim to include environmental conditions or criteria in specification and tender documents wherever possible
- Evaluate specifications and tenders with appropriate weight given to environmental points
- Encourage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and local suppliers to bid for appropriate work through relevant frameworks
- Encourage suppliers and contractors to support our lead by taking their own action
- Support OUH Trust direction and other relevant sustainability policies.

Trust staff must:

- Question the need for new items (Do we really need it? Could it be borrowed or shared? Could we use fewer?)
- Operate and dispose of products in an environmentally friendly way, including finding alternative owners or applications and avoiding landfill

Procurement staff will:

- Aim to check and draft specifications that allow recycled, used or innovative items or services to be acquired
- Apply life cycle costing wherever possible in procurement decisions