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L4M1 - CIPS: Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - answerMachines that display human-like intelligence

Assets - answerThe value of everything an organisation owns

Audit - answerA systematic inspection of a process or procedure to assess compliance with requirements or regulations

Batch Quantity - answerAmount of products produced at a time

Benchmark - answerCompare an element of one business, such as price, quality or service, against another

Bid - answerOffer of a price, may be a response to an invitation to tender

Brand - answerThe image of an organisation. The name, logo, slogan, colours, etc., that differentiate it from the competition

Budget - answerFinancial plan for a set period of time on how much can be spent

Buffer Stock - answerThe amount of stock held as inventory at any time in addition to immediate requirements

Capital Asset - answerTangible, non-current (or fixed) assets

Carriage Deals - answerNegotiations to achieve the best possible cost

Centralised Structure - answerActivities carried out at one central location

Charity - answerA not-for-profit organisation with the objective of raising awareness or helping its chosen cause

Cloud Computing - answerThe delivery of IT services such as storage and networking which are hosted by a third party and accessed over the internet

Co-Operative - answerA people-centred enterprise owned and run by and for its members, which either reinvests any profits or returns them to its members

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CIPS L4M1 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	Understand and analyse the added value through procurement and supply chain management: This section of the exam measures skills of supply chain managers related to identifying added value outcomes in procurement and supply and evaluating cost savings, service improvements, and innovations contributions. It also measures procurement and supply processes that contribute to added value.
Topic 2	Understand and analyse the need for compliance: This section measures skills of compliance officers and sector-specific procurement managers in understanding different economic and industrial sectors such as

Topic 3	Understand and analyse aspects of organisational infrastructure that shape the scope of procurement and supply chain functions: This section measures that skill of supply chain strategists and organizational analysts in understanding corporate governance, documented policies, accountability, and ethics. It also covers the impact of organisational policies and procedures on procurement and supply
Topic 4	Procedures, strategies, manuals, and internal function involvement.

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CIPS Scope and Influence of Procurement and Supply Sample Questions (Q27-Q32):

NEW QUESTION # 27

Explain what is meant by added value (5 points). Describe 4 ways the Procurement Department can add value for their organisation (20 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

What to include in the essay:

- Definition of added value: the economic enhancement given to products or services before offering them to customers. Examples may include a product which has additional features at no additional cost to the customer or the provision of an extended warrantee.
- Description of four of the following with examples and Explanations: providing better customer service levels, risk management, cost control and reduction, relationship management, reputation management, innovation, use of technology, streamlining processes, improving specifications, increasing sustainability, improving quality, ordering processes such as bulk ordering, inventory management, improving the product from the customer's perspective (e.g. packaging, exclusivity), sustainability, convenience, market development.

Example essay:

Added value in procurement refers to the enhancement or improvement in the economic worth, quality, or utility of products or services before they are offered to customers or end-users. In the context of procurement, the goal is to go beyond simply obtaining goods or services at the lowest cost. Instead, procurement aims to contribute additional value to the organization through various means. This essay explores the concept of added value and outlines four ways the Procurement Department can contribute to organizational improvement.

Improving Specifications

Procurement can add value firstly by ensuring all critical items are procured against a specification, and secondly by improving and regularly updating those specifications. For example, the procurement department might be responsible for procuring light-bulbs for an office. Having an effective specification for this purchase (lightbulbs must meet X safety standard and Y environmental standard) would result in less maverick buying for the organisation and the procurement of a better-quality product. Furthermore, regularly updating specifications ensures that purchases are made against current safety standards and regulations (e.g. the use of low-energy lightbulbs). If procurement don't update specifications, then there is a risk that items are bought that don't meet the correct standards. Added value in this regard could also therefore be considered the removal of risks of procuring the wrong item.

Stream-lining Processes

Procurement can add value by stream-lining processes such as requisitions and POs. This reduces the time it takes to procure an item, thus saving the company money. Another process that could be streamlined is the re-ordering process of regularly bought items. This could be automated when the stock levels reach a certain level. For example if an organisation requires its staff to wear PPE, an automatic request could be made once there are only 50 face masks left.

Managing Supplier Relationships

Having strong, positive relationships with suppliers is a source of added value as it means suppliers value you as a buyer and are therefore more likely to help in situations which are adversely affecting business. For example, if a manufacturer puts an order in for 300 items with their supplier but then realises that they have made an error in the amount, if there is a strong relationship, the supplier may allow the buyer to amend the order after the fact. If there is a poor relationship, the supplier may not be as flexible. The flexibility in the supply chain is therefore a source of added value.

Improving Quality / Innovation

This involves adding value from the customer's perspective. E.g. a customer may choose to purchase a phone that has a longer battery life than others. Procurement's role in this may be in completing a Value Engineering exercise or procuring higher quality components or materials at the same price in order to achieve this additional feature.

In conclusion, the Procurement Department plays a crucial role in organizational success by adding value through improved specifications, streamlined processes, strong supplier relationships, and a focus on quality and innovation. These strategies contribute to enhanced efficiency, reduced risks, and increased customer satisfaction, making procurement an essential function for organizational excellence.

Tutor Notes

- The question asks specifically to name 4 ways of adding value. You therefore won't get any additional points if you talk about 5 or 6, even though it may be tempting. Instead, focus your response on providing more information on the 4 you have chosen and bulking out your answer with examples. This demonstrates to the examiner that you fully understand the topic AND that you can apply the theory to real situations.
- You could use real-life examples from your own organisation/ experience or you could give a hypothetical situation such as a cake manufacturer. You could talk through how the procurement department at the cake manufacturer can add value by doing the four things in your essay: by amending the specification so the cakes are more tasty, by streamlining the process for ordering flour, by managing the relationship with the company that fixes the machines when they break down, and by introducing innovation such as using an e-procurement system to source raw materials and the benefits that these will bring to the organisation.
- Added value is part of the syllabus for Learning Outcome 1.2 starting from p.19 but I'm gonna be honest, I think the new study guide is a bit crap on this part of the syllabus. The section starts talking about the 5 rights of procurement and I think that makes things very confusing for students. The 5 rights and added value are linked subjects, but they're not the same. Getting the rights right, CAN lead to sources of added value, but added value is value that is IN ADDITION to what is expected. So, when you have a question on added value, focus on stuff that's listed under 1.1.4 'other sources of added value' on p.35 rather than talking about the 5 rights of procurement. My list at the top is more exhaustive than the one in the study guide.
- If you're looking to be really clever you can quote Michael Porter on 'what is added value?'. Michael Porter looks at this from a customer perspective - 'added value' refers to the addition of greater value (either by reducing the cost to produce it, or by adding something that customers are willing to pay more for). These could be; marketing / design, customer service, maintenance, delivery etc. This comes up at Level 5 / 6.

NEW QUESTION # 28

Describe the four main ways that a Public Sector organisation can procure goods or services (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question

- This question is testing to see if you know the 4 procurement procedures allowed in the Public Sector which are: open, restricted, competitive dialogue, competitive dialogue with negotiation. The Public Sector is limited in how it can procure due to the Public Contract Regulations, so things like Early Supplier Involvement isn't an option.

- The question doesn't specifically say it has to be these four, but these are the ones in the book. Because of the vagueness you could say something like running a competition and awarding via a Framework instead.

Talking about Public Private Partnerships could also be appropriate but that is outside of the scope of this module (and Level! It comes up in Level 5). These answers would be accepted.

- Also note that it doesn't say the UK in the question, so if you answered this about your own country, that would be fine.

Example Essay

Each country's government has its own regulations relating to how goods, services and works can be procured. The UK's procurement rules is currently dictated by the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 which is based off EU Procurement Directives. This piece of legislation will likely be superseded in Autumn

2023 due to the UK leaving the EU. Until this point, the PCR allows UK public sector organisations to procure in the following ways: open, restricted, competitive dialogue, competitive dialogue with negotiation Open Procedure: This is the most straightforward and transparent method. A local government issues an open tender for office supplies. Any company that provides these supplies can submit a bid. The government then evaluates all bids based on price, quality, and delivery terms to select the supplier. Any interested supplier can submit a tender. The process is open from the outset, and all submissions are evaluated against pre-defined

criteria. This procedure is used when you wish to attract a large number of bidders for the opportunity and is often posted online on a platform such as Find A Tender.com so that suppliers can find the opportunity. If it is a large contract it is a requirement for details to be published on OJEU. The disadvantage of using this approach is that you may receive many bids which can be time-consuming. Restricted Procedure: In this method, the public sector organization invites suppliers to express their interest.

After a preliminary selection process, only those who meet the criteria are invited to submit tenders. This is used when the opportunity is more technical, for example a healthcare authority needs specialized medical equipment. The authority would request expressions of interest from suppliers. After reviewing these, it invites a shortlist of qualified suppliers to submit detailed bids for further evaluation. The benefit of this approach is that unsuitable suppliers are weeded out early, this saving time.

Competitive Dialogue: This is used for complex contracts where the organization cannot define the technical means or legal or financial make-up of a project in advance. A dialogue with selected bidders is conducted to develop one or more suitable solutions, which are then put out to tender. For example, a local council is planning a new public transport system but is unsure of the best solution. It enters into a dialogue with several firms specializing in transport systems to explore various options before requesting final bids based on the developed solutions. Suppliers can be eliminated through the dialogue process based on pre-determined criteria.

Competitive Dialogue with Negotiation: Similar to competitive dialogue, but with an added phase of negotiation. It's used for particularly complex projects where the needs cannot be met without adaptation of readily available solutions. For example: a government department requires a complex IT system that integrates various existing systems. It engages in a competitive dialogue to develop potential solutions and then negotiates with bidders to refine these solutions before finalizing the contract. This procedure allows for negotiations with the winning bidder to readjust requirements if needed.

The approach taken by a public sector organisation will depend on a number of factors, but in particular the complexity of the project and whether there is a pre-determined scope. Other factors to consider include; the time-sensitiveness of the project and how quickly the procurement exercise needs to be completed, the amount of suppliers in the marketplace, and whether suppliers need to be consulted on to create the specification.

Tutor Notes

- These four procedures are outlined on p.212. Post PCR 2015, these procedures may change, or be renamed, depending on what the UK government decide to do. So if you're taking this exam in November 2024 or later, note that the study guide is now out of date and you should conduct a bit of your own research.

- You could also mention that the value of spend is a factor when public sector organisations are deciding on a procurement route. For really low value stuff, like they need a new sofa for the office, most organisations requirements are to get three quotes and compare them. That isn't in the study guide, it's just real life (I've worked in this sector so know this stuff). Each organisation will have it's own thresholds for what procurement route needs to be taken, so I wouldn't comment on that but generally if it's under £10k there's quite a bit of flexibility. Where you reach 'threshold' then things become very serious and there's much more scrutiny.

- Thresholds are not part of the syllabus so don't worry about learning this. But if you're interested have a read here: New public procurement thresholds from 1 January 2024 - BM Insights - Blake Morgan

NEW QUESTION # 29

In the supplier selection part of the Procurement Cycle, what criteria can a Procurement Manager use to ensure they award to the best supplier? (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question:

- This is quite an open question and there are many different things you could mention. One way to approach it would be to use Carter's 10 Cs- discuss a couple of these. OR just give a couple of criteria in different paragraphs. Some ideas include: Supplier financial status, Reputation / References, Quality, Availability, CSR Policies / Ethics / Environmental considerations, Accreditations, Added Value. This list is not exhaustive.

- If you're going for Carter's 10 Cs you could name a couple of these: competency, consistency, capability, control, cost, cash, clean, communication, culture, commitment

- I don't think either approach is better or worse. Choose the criteria you know the most about and write about those.

- The question doesn't tell you how many criteria to name, so you have to make a judgement call here. I would aim for 5-6. But if you can only remember 4 that's fine. The main thing they're looking for is that you explain for each one 1) what it is 2) how procurement can check 3) why procurement would look at that criteria 4) an example. If you do too many you risk not going into enough detail on each. It's a balance. 5 is always a good number to aim for if the question doesn't state.

Example Essay

In the procurement cycle, the supplier selection phase is a critical juncture that demands consideration.

Procurement Managers shoulder the responsibility of identifying and awarding contracts to suppliers who not only meet immediate needs, but contribute to the long-term success of the organization. This essay explores various criteria a Procurement Manager can

employ to ensure the selection of the best supplier: financial stability, reputation, quality, availability, CSR policies, and added value. Financial stability is a foundational criterion in supplier selection. Assessing a supplier's financial status involves a multifaceted evaluation, with liquidity and gearing ratio taking center stage. The acid test, comparing short-term assets to liabilities, offers insights into a supplier's ability to settle debts promptly, with a ratio exceeding 1 indicating financial health. Meanwhile, the gearing ratio, reflecting the proportion of capital funded by loans, aids in gauging financial risk, with a ratio below 50% considered low-risk. Relying on published Profit and Loss statements and income statements, along with financial credit checks from platforms like Dun and Bradstreet, empowers Procurement Managers to make informed decisions. This financial scrutiny is imperative to avoid entering contracts with suppliers facing imminent financial struggles, safeguarding against potential disruptions to the supply chain. Reputation and references are another pivotal criterion. Seeking references from previous contracts allows Procurement Managers to gauge a supplier's track record in successfully delivering on similar commitments. Independent reviews and informal market inquiries supplement this information, providing a holistic understanding of a supplier's performance. However, caution is advised in overreliance on past performance, as variables like personnel changes or contract scale differences may impact outcomes. Recognizing that past shortcomings may have been addressed internally further emphasizes the need for a balanced approach to reference evaluation.

Thirdly, Quality. Beyond the product itself, considerations extend to the supplier's technological capabilities, manufacturing processes, and relevant accreditations such as ISO 9001. Physical visits to supplier sites may be warranted, especially for products like raw materials where samples can be requested. Adhering to recognized safety standards and assessing factors like fire retardancy ensures that the quality of manufactured goods aligns with established benchmarks.

Next, Availability is another important criteria to consider. Procurement Managers must evaluate a supplier's capacity and capability to meet specific requirements. Inquiries about existing contracts and flexibility in response to demand fluctuations provide insights into a supplier's commitment and responsiveness. Assessing the supplier's workload and the significance of the buyer in their client portfolio helps determine the level of attention and service the buyer can expect. A buyer may wish to avoid working for a supplier who is already stretched very thinly with other contracts.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policies and ethical considerations have gained prominence in supplier selection. Beyond legal compliance, Procurement Managers may scrutinize a supplier's history for convictions or negative press related to corruption, bribery, or fraud. The presence of a Modern Slavery Policy and Environmental Policy, along with relevant accreditations like ISO 14001 or Fair Trade certification, attests to a supplier's commitment to ethical and sustainable practices. Procurement would likely seek to appoint a supplier whose CSR vision aligns with their own company's.

Lastly, added value is an important criteria to consider. This is particularly so for Public Sector Organizations governed by the Social Value Act. In addition to meeting contractual requirements, suppliers may offer knowledge sharing, training, improved processes, or contribute to social value by employing local community members or providing apprenticeships. This criterion aligns procurement decisions with broader organizational goals, enhancing the overall impact of supplier relationships and benefitting the local community.

In conclusion, a careful combination of financial scrutiny, reputation assessment, quality evaluation, availability considerations, CSR policies, and added value analysis forms the bedrock of effective supplier selection in the procurement cycle. Procurement Managers, armed with a holistic understanding of these criteria, should seek not only to fulfil immediate needs, but also consider the long-term impact of supplier appointments.

Tutor Notes

- A 'good' scoring answer (50-70%) will explain the criteria well and give examples. If you're looking for a distinction level answer (70%+) you could also mention advantages, disadvantages and risks associated with each of the criteria. For example, when looking at references and reputation it's important to know that a supplier would only ever provide a good reference to you, they would never tell you of a contract that failed.

Another example is that financial data may be skewed- a supplier may have a low score if they are just starting up or have recently remortgaged a property. It's therefore important to get a commentary as well as the figures / scores.

- You could also mention that criteria could be weighted e.g. more importance given to quality than financial status and also consider how easy or difficult it would be to get the information e.g. a supplier may say they have lots of availability to deliver the service you require, but they may just be saying this to win business.

How do you know for sure?

- Social Value Act isn't in this syllabus. If you work in Public Sector procurement it's something you'll be very familiar with. If you don't or you're outside of the UK do not worry about this. I've just included it to show how you can bring in your own knowledge to questions like this. You could think of particular criteria that's important to your industry and write about that. The Social Value Act: What is it, and why is it important? (samtaler.co.uk)

- Study guide p.77

NEW QUESTION # 30

Explain what is meant by the term Inventory Management System? Describe MRP and ERP systems explaining when they are used and the advantages and disadvantages of using them (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

How to approach this question:

- Definition of Inventory Management System - a system, usually a piece of digital software, that helps an organisation manage their inventory. It oversees the process of ordering stock, receiving it, storing it and converting it into finished goods. Used predominantly in manufacturing organisations. MRP and ERP are types of IMS.
- MRP - Material Requirements Planning- this is a planning, scheduling, and inventory control system used to manage manufacturing processes. Most MRP systems are software-based. The aim is to automate and improve the efficiency of ordering and processing raw materials.
- ERP - Enterprise Resource Planning - this system uses MRP but also includes other operations such as finance, so allows for budgeting and forecasting, and customer relations. ERP gives an organisation a more holistic overview compared to MRP which just focuses on manufacturing.
- When they are used - predominantly in the manufacturing industry for the ordering of goods. Not used for services. Used when there is a lot of maths involved in figuring out how much of something to order and when e.g. a chocolate manufacturer who needs to produce 50,000 chocolate bars a day. MRP / ERP helps the organisation know what to order, how much and when. It helps achieve the 5 Rights of Procurement.
- Advantages - the advantages of MRP and ERP are very similar and in most cases the same: more accurate than manual processes, quicker response times, automated process frees up people to complete more added value tasks, flexibility, has real time information to inform on decision making, improved responsiveness to customers, improved supply chain management, reduction in costs.
- Disadvantages - expensive, complicated, can break down or be hacked (as they're digital systems), only as good as the information put into them. training required to use.

Example Essay:

IMS

An Inventory Management System (IMS) is a software application or set of tools designed to oversee and optimize the management of a company's inventory. The primary goal of an inventory management system is to maintain an accurate record of stock levels, streamline the procurement process, and ensure efficient order fulfilment. This system plays a crucial role in supporting businesses by helping them avoid stockouts, reduce excess inventory, and enhance overall supply chain efficiency.

Inventory Management Systems have the following functions: demand management (which assists with forecasting, and helps the avoidance of overstocking), helps to control stock levels (by stating minimum and maximum levels), replenishment of stock in line with policies, allows automatic reordering when stock levels get low, tracks stock movements (e.g. around a warehouse), allows communication with suppliers and end users, and helps increase safety by ensuring stock isn't damaged or deteriorating.

MRP

MRP stands for Material Requirements Planning, and it is a computer-based inventory management and production planning system used by businesses to optimize the management of materials, components, and finished products in the manufacturing process. MRP is a key component of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, focusing specifically on the planning and control of materials and production resources.

MRP systems uses 3 main modules: 1. Master Production Schedule- information on customer orders, forecast orders, customer requirements and stock orders 2. Bill of Materials - the recipe / breakdown of components of the finished product and 3. Inventory Status File - tells you the current stock levels.

How MRP works- For example, a customer wants to order a new sofa. 1. input the customer order into MRP 2.

Check finished stock and if there's a sofa, give the customer that sofa. If there isn't a sofa in stock, the MRP system will look at the Bill of Materials- looking at individual materials needed to make the sofa and will order these, factoring in lead times 3. confirm to customer what the lead time is on getting their new sofa, based on delivery time of materials and time to make it.

MRP is a simple system - it doesn't take into account other business processes and can go wrong due to inaccurate or outdated information.

Advantages of the MRP process include the assurance that materials and components will be available when needed, minimised inventory levels, reduced customer lead times, optimised inventory management, and improved overall customer satisfaction.

Disadvantages to the MRP process include a heavy reliance on input data accuracy (garbage in, garbage out), the high cost to implement, and a lack of flexibility when it comes to the production schedule.

ERP

This is business management software which is used to collect, store, manage, and interpret data from many business activities. It uses MRP but also includes other operations such as finance, HR and customer services.

Therefore it's more powerful than MRP. Where MRP can tell you how much of something to order and what the lead times are, ERP can also consider how many staff are available each day (by looking at holidays and sickness) and factor this into the manufacturing process. It can also produce accurate financial data, manage customer and supplier relationships.

ERP facilitates information flow between all business functions and manages connections to outside stakeholders. SAP and Oracle are examples of ERP systems. There is also ERP II - this extends the system to include links with suppliers and supply chain stakeholders One of the primary advantages of implementing an ERP system is the integration of information across various

departments. By providing a unified view of an organization's operations, an ERP system ensures that different functions work with synchronized and consistent data, fostering improved decision-making and collaboration.

Operational efficiency is another significant benefit of ERP systems. Through the automation of routine tasks and streamlined processes, organizations can achieve greater efficiency, reduce manual errors, and enhance overall productivity.

However, one of the primary disadvantages is the high initial implementation costs. Organizations must invest in software licenses, training programs, and customization to align the ERP system with their specific needs.

The complexity of ERP systems and potential customization challenges can pose difficulties, requiring expertise and resources for successful implementation.

Resistance to change among employees is a common hurdle when introducing ERP systems. Employees may be hesitant to adopt new processes and technologies, leading to a slower transition period and potential inefficiencies during the learning curve.

Organizations also become dependent on ERP vendors for updates, support, and maintenance, and switching vendors can be disruptive and costly.

In conclusion, while MRP and ERP systems offer numerous advantages in terms of operational efficiency, data integration, and strategic planning, organizations must carefully weigh these benefits against the associated challenges. A well-planned and effectively implemented system can contribute significantly to an organization's success, but the decision to adopt such a system should be approached with a thorough understanding of both its advantages and potential drawbacks.

Tutor Notes

- This is a really hard topic if you don't have a manufacturing background. The way I think about it is this- imagine you're Cadbury's and you're coming up to Easter. How much sugar do you need to buy and when do you need to buy it in order to make all your Easter Eggs? Hard question right? Well MRP / ERP is the clever software that figures that all out for you. It will tell you how much sugar needs to be bought on what day, in order for the delivery time to be right for manufacturing. It will consider storage costs and how quickly Easter Eggs get made in the factory. It's honestly so clever. Feel free to use that example in your essay. Examples like that show the examiner you understand the topic.

- Although they're fabulous systems, using MRP and ERP systems doesn't guarantee success- at the end of the day they're just software- the key to success is in the accuracy of the data that's inputted into the systems and how the systems are used. That would make a strong conclusion.

- This is a good simple video that explains the topic: What is Materials Requirement Planning (MRP)?

(youtube.com) I also like watching How Its Made - a documentary series about factory life. You can find it on BBC Iplayer. If you don't have a manufacturing background it helps give context to some of these dry subjects like MRP and Just-in-Time manufacturing.

- LO 3.4 p. 175

NEW QUESTION # 31

Explain what is meant by Corporate Governance and why having Corporate Governance structures is important. Discuss 2 obstacles which may impede an organisation achieving high levels of Corporate Governance. (25 points)

Answer:

Explanation:

See the solution in Explanation part below.

Explanation:

- Firstly start with a definition of Corporate Governance - this means the rules, policies, processes and organisational structures that ensure an organisation adheres to accepted ethical standards, good practices, the law and regulations. It's the systems put in place which directs and controls organisations to do 'the right thing'.

- Then move on to discuss why having this is important - I'd maybe think of 3-4 examples here such as:

protects the interest of shareholders, reduces risk, moral obligations, legal obligations

- The last part of your essay should talk about the 2 obstacles - describe two from the following list: lack of executive support, poor stakeholder co-operation, lack of clarity and / or resources, having poor IT systems, lack of co-ordination of procurement responsibilities. Because you're only talking about 2 here, you'll need to go into detail about them. So pick 2 you know well. Don't be tempted to talk about more than 2. You won't get extra marks.

Example Essay:

Corporate governance refers to the system of rules, practices, processes, and structures by which a company is directed and controlled. It encompasses the relationships among a company's management, its board of directors, shareholders, and other stakeholders. The primary objective of corporate governance is to ensure that the company operates in an ethical, transparent, and accountable manner, safeguarding the interests of shareholders and promoting long-term value creation. Corporate governance can be defined internally (by shareholders/ managers) or externally (by governments and international standard-setting bodies such as ISO) and is important for all organisations. Corporate governance is needed because you can't assume everyone will act ethically- rules and procedures need to be written down and the organisation needs to have recourse for dealing with behaviour that falls outside of what is accepted. Procurement's role in Corporate Governance includes control over finance and expenditure, ensuring the supply chain is 'clean' (i.e. not involved in unethical business practices such as child labour) and risk management.

Why having a corporate governance structure is important:

- 1) The procurement department has a 'stewardship' role - it controls large sums of organisation's funds. There are many opportunities to commit fraud, make unethical or biased decisions so it's important that there are corporate governance structures in place to prevent this. It protects the organisation from individuals with bad intent, scandal, and legal repercussions.
- 2) Strong Corporate Governance is required to successfully manage a supply chain. It's important to ensure good relationships- suppliers need to see you as a 'good customer'. If your organisation is seen to be unethical or underhand, suppliers may not want to work with you.
- 3) Financial impact - where corporate governance isn't implemented, there may be financial costs for the organisation. For example, in the Public Sector if a supplier successfully challenges a tender award, the buyer may have to award the value of the tender - so there's financial impact on a company if corporate governance isn't followed.

Obstacle 1 - lack of senior management support

Unless there is buy-in from the senior leadership team it will not be possible for departments such as Procurement to implement sound Corporate Governance procedures. Corporate Governance needs to be directed from the top of an organisation to ensure all departments and staff give importance to this. If Senior Leadership are seen not to care about implementing or following Corporate Governance, other staff won't care either. They need to lead by example to ensure the whole organisation 'buys into' the processes.

Obstacle 2 - Poor IT infrastructure.

For Corporate Governance to be effective, an effective IT system must be implemented. For example, to avoid fraud it's not just necessary to have a written anti-fraud policy, there must be ways of checking that fraud isn't being committed. The way to do this is to have an effective IT system which can flag anomaly payments and procurement activities outside of what is considered 'normal'. Therefore, having a poor IT infrastructure is a barrier to effective Corporate Governance.

In conclusion, corporate governance is essential for building trust among stakeholders and contributing to the overall success and sustainability of a company. Effective governance structures and practices instil confidence in investors, enhance the company's reputation, and foster a culture of responsibility and accountability throughout the organization. Good corporate governance is a cornerstone of sound business management and contributes to the long-term prosperity of the company.

Tutor Notes

- Corporate Governance became a big thing in the 70s and 80s following high profile scandals and the collapse of several companies. Investors were concerned about what companies were doing which led to increased control on the powers of directors and greater transparency of corporate actions.
- Examples of Corporate Governance. Enron is a good real life example you could use: Impact of Bad Corporate Governance - Corporate Fraud and Corruption: A Holistic Approach to Preventing Financial Crises (ebruary.net)
- This is a really good real-life example of Public Sector procurement gone wrong: Flawed nuclear tender sees £100m payout to firms - BBC News
- Adding in some real life examples will take your essay from a Merit result (50-70%) to a Distinction (70%+)
- Another way this topic can come up as a question is describing the elements of corporate governance, or asking what a procurement manager should do when corporate governance is broken/ not followed.
- LO 3.1 p.117

NEW QUESTION # 32

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