

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA



**North East
Derbyshire**
District Council

Our Ref: NC/AJD
Contact: Nicola Calver
Tel: 01246 217753
Email: nicola.calver@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
Date: Tuesday, 15 September 2020

To: **Members of the Standards Committee**

Please attend a meeting of the Standards Committee to be held on **Wednesday, 23 September 2020 at 2.00 pm**. The meeting will be held through virtual meeting software. Access credentials to the meeting will be sent to you under separate cover.

Virtual Attendance and Hybrid Meetings

I have provided the Leader and Deputy Leader with advice on the holding of “hybrid” meetings outlining the risks including to employees dealing with the Chamber and to Members. Hybrid meetings are those where some attendance is in person in the Council Chamber and some is virtual. I would encourage you all to attend virtually. Accordingly if you attend in person you will be deemed to have accepted the following disclaimer as applying.

Risk Assessment Disclaimer

When attending this meeting in person, I confirm that I have read and understood the contents of each of the following risk assessments and agree to act in line with its content.

- RA – Return to Work Mill Lane Covid 19 V9
- Mill Lane Coronavirus Control Measures V4

Both documents have been emailed to Members and are available on the Modern.Gov App library.

The same advice is given to officers who are also encouraged to participate in the meeting remotely.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Steuberg".

Joint Head of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

Members of the Committee

Councillor W Armitage – Chair
Councillor P R Kerry – Vice Chair

Councillors P Antcliff, D Hancock, H Liggett, J Ridgway, M Roe, K Rouse and D Ruff

For further information about this meeting please contact: Nicola Calver, 01246 217753

A G E N D A

7(a) Contract Procedure Rules (Pages 3 - 27)



***We speak
your language***

Polish

Mówimy Twoim językiem

French

Nous parlons votre langue

Spanish

Hablamos su idioma

Slovak

Rozprávame Vaším jazykom

Chinese

我们会说你的语言

If you require
this agenda in
large print

or another
format
please call
us on

**01246
217753**

If you require an adjustment to enable you to participate in or access the meeting please contact the Governance Team at least 72 hours before the meeting starts.

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

23 September 2020

Review of the Council's Constitution (Part 2)

Report of the Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To consider the list of areas for review within the Council's Constitution for consideration by the Standards Committee prior to submission as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution to Council for adoption.

1 Report Details

1.1 The Constitution is the Council's 'rulebook'. It sets out how the Council operates and how it makes decisions. Council approved its latest version of the Constitution at the Annual Council meeting in May 2020.

1.2 One of the functions of the Standards Committee is to undertake an annual review of the Council's Constitution to ensure it is up to date and in line with legislation and current circumstances. The following areas have been identified for review in 2020;

- Housing Management Board TOR
- Town Fund Board TOR
- Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities
- Employee Code of Conduct / Employment Rules
- JCG Terms Of Reference
- Planning Protocol
- Minor wording changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)

1.3 The table below sets out how these areas of review will be considered over the municipal year and where the matters need to be considered by other Committees for consultation, these have been identified.

Area for Review	Lead Officer	Dates for Consideration
Housing Management TOR	Governance Manager	Standards Committee July 2020
Town Fund Board TOR	Governance Manager	Standards Committee July 2020
Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities	Monitoring Officer	Standards Committee September 2020

Planning Committee – Ward Members	Governance Manager Head of Planning	Standards Committee September 2020
Review of Employee Code of Conduct	HR and Organisational Development Manager	JCG Special meeting TBC* Standards Committee December 2020
Employment Rules	Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager	Standards Committee December 2020
Joint Employment Group Terms of Reference	HR and Organisational Development Manager	JCG Special meeting TBC* Standards Committee December 2020
Minor wording changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)	Governance Officers	Once final draft version produced

1.4 In addition to the above areas for review, during the pandemic a number of changes were taken directly to virtual Council for incorporation in the constitution and bypassed Standards. These were brought back to Standards Committee to review.

- Virtual Meeting Standing Orders
- Disestablishment of the SAJC
- Calendar of Meetings Approval
- Delegations Scheme (Chief Officers)
- Planning Committee Terms of Reference
- Planning Protocol
- Minor Wording Changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)

1.5 The areas for review for this meeting in the above table and list are detailed in the appendices to the report and set out the proposal and/or rationale and the sections of the Constitution to be amended.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 To ensure the Council has in place a fit for purpose Constitution which complies with English law.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 The Director of Corporate Resources & Head of Paid Service, Chief Financial Officer, Monitoring Officer and SAMT are consulted at various stages of the Constitution Review.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessments may be carried out in relation to specific areas of review where the need arises. Details of any equality issues will be address in relation to each area of review.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Members may consider alternative options to any proposals put forward, where legally permitted.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 Failure to ensure the Constitution meets legal requirements can leave the Council open to challenge, as does failure to comply with the provisions of the Constitution. It is therefore essential that Constitution is regularly reviewed and given robust oversight.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare and keep up-to-date a constitution that contains its standing orders, code of conduct, such other information that the Secretary of State may direct and such other information that the authority considers appropriate.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the proposals within this report. Some areas for review may impact on staff. These implications will be addressed in relation to the specific areas for review.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Committee give consideration to proposals for review and support the submission of the proposals to Council as part of the Constitution Mid-Year Review in November 2020.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the relevant Portfolio Holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	None
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Demonstrating good governance

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Areas for Review – Proposals and Rationale
2	Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities – proposed amendments
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
None.	
<p>Report Author</p>	
<p>Contact Number</p>	
Nicola Calver, Governance Manager	01246 217753

APPENDIX 1 Area of Review	Proposal and Rationale	Sections of the Constitution to be revised
Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities	<p>Following a recent internal audit recommendation an officer review has taken place of the Contract Procedure.</p> <p>As a result of the review a number of changes are suggested mainly for clarification purposes and to ensure that the rules do not conflict with the Council's Procurement Policy. The proposed changes are shown as tracked changes and are mostly self-explanatory. Change to rule 4.1. do however require further explanation:</p> <p>All contracts should follow the procurement route as set out in the rules unless one of the exemptions in rule 4.1. It is expected that an exemption should apply only in exceptional circumstances and officers consider that approval to use all the exemption needs to be approved by senior officers and recorded appropriately. The proposed changes now require that if the Council wishes to utilise an exemption a senior officer must approve it by way of a formal Delegated Decision.</p>	<p>Part 4 of the Constitution, Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Pages 150 to 163 of current constitution.</p>
Planning Committee – Ward Members	<p>To have regard to the deliberations of the Planning Committee in respect of, and to consider, the requirement for Members of Planning Committee not to be involved in determining an application in their own ward.</p>	<p>Part 5 of the Constitution, Protocol on Planning</p>

	<p>This was agreed previously by Council, and then suspended by delegated decision in order to allow further debate and consultation on this change.</p> <p>Planning Committee at their meeting on 22nd September will receive rational for the proposal and feedback to officers and the Chair of Standards (who will be present), and then this feedback will be given verbally at this meeting of Standards.</p> <p>There are a number of reasons why the proposal is made to move ward members from committee benches during discussion of items within their constituencies. Whilst Members are fully aware of pre-determination matters, removing voting rights on local applications can protect Ward members from pre-determination claims from local residents or developers.</p> <p>Some elected representatives may view that Members appointed to planning committee have an advantage to those not on planning committee to influence decisions within their wards.</p> <p>The proposal protects Members from pressures within their electorate and electioneering – removing complications of voting against or for applications and the constituents view on this and allows members to fully represent the views of their wards.</p>	<p>2.1 When an application is put before the Committee where the site is situated in a Planning Committee (or Substitute) Member's ward, that Member should withdraw from Committee benches. This will allow them to speak on behalf of the residents they represent if required. Planning Committee members should not vote on applications within their electoral ward</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Members can use substitutes for meetings where they are representing their wards to ensure voting numbers aren't affected.</p>	
--	---	--

PART 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Contract Procedure Rules

Contract Procedure Rules

Contents

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. COMPLIANCE WITH CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**
- 3. NORMAL PROCEDURE**
- 4. EXEMPTIONS TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**
- 5. CONTRACTS AND FINANCIAL GUIDELINES**
- 6. PROBITY**
- 7. RECEIPT AND CUSTODY**
- 8. OPENING TENDERS**
- 9. LATE TENDERS**
- 10. ACCEPTANCE**
- 11. NOMINATED/NAMED SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS**
- 12. ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS**
- 13. CONTRACT CONDITIONS**
- 14. EXTENDING EXISTING CONTRACTS**
- 15. PERFORMANCE BONDS AND GUARANTEES**
- 16. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**
- 17. CONTRACT FORMALITIES**
- 18. APPENDIX A – FINANCIAL THRESHOLDS NEDDC**
- 19. APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 These Contract Procedure Rules provide a corporate framework for the procurement of all goods, services and works for the Council. The Rules are designed to ensure that all procurement activity is conducted with openness, probity and accountability. Above all, the Rules are designed to ensure that the Council complies with the statutory framework, obtains value for money and the required level of quality and performance from all contracts that are let. Every contract for the supply of goods and services and for the execution works made by or on behalf of the Council shall comply with these Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”).
- 1.2 The Council has a joint procurement service with Bolsover District Council (“the Procurement Service”). This includes advice on procurement and tendering procedures and the provision and management of the e-tendering system on the Council’s behalf.
- 1.3 E-procurement procedures shall be used wherever possible. These include e-purchasing, e-tendering, purchase cards and others. Where appropriate e-auctions may be used, so long as provision is made for this in the advert. No e-tendering system should be used without the approval of the Chief Finance Officer. Requests for quotations, Pre-qualification questionnaires and Invitations to tender should wherever practical be issued to tenderers by electronic means. Where e-tendering is utilised then this must be undertaken by way of the corporate e-tendering system which is managed on the Council’s behalf by the Procurement Service.
- 1.4 Before any tendering exercise is considered, reference must be made to the Council’s procurement and equalities guidelines. The Council is committed to dealing fairly with all relevant discrimination groups as defined in the Equalities Act 2010. A failure to take into account special requirements for these groups in a tender would be a significant corporate failure, affecting the reputation and standing of the Council.
- 1.5 All procurement arrangements must ensure compliance with the Council’s responsibility in respect of the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Data Protection Act and the General Data Protection Regulation.
- 1.6 Any employee who fails to comply with Contract Procedure Rules may be subject to disciplinary action.

1.7 Generally the rules set out in part 4.8.5 must be followed when procuring all good, services or works. Part 4.8.4 contains the exemptions to the normal rules

1.87 Definitions of terms used in these rules: ↓

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1.27 cm

Commented [JF1]: I have moved the definitions section to the start of these rules from the glossary at the back

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Underline

Formatted: Underline

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial, Bold

Code of Practice Means the Council's Code of Practice for Procurement including accompanying guidance.

Contract Means any form of contract, agreement or other arrangement for the supply of goods, services or works.

Contracting Officer Means any officer who proposes to procure goods services or works.

Goods Covers all supplies and materials that the Council purchases or obtains.

Senior Officer Means one of the following: Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Assistant Directors and Heads of Service.

Services Includes all services which the Council purchases or obtains including advice, specialist consultancy work, agency staff, etc.

Works Includes all construction and repairs in respect of physical assets (buildings, roads, etc.). A Glossary of Terms can be found at Appendix B.

Commented [JF2]: Theresa has suggested adding Heads of Service to this. Is this agreed? Do we want to extend the ability to agree an exemption to a Head of Service or do we want to reserve this to Directors, and Assistant Directors

2. COMPLIANCE WITH CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

2.1 The provisions contained in these Rules are subject to the statutory requirements of both the European Union and the United Kingdom Government. The European rules will remain in place following Britain's departure from EU until at least 31st December 2020. A review of the legal requirements will need to be carried out following the end of the EU transitions period. However it should be noted that the majority of Council contracts are below the thresholds set by the EU and so will not be affected by Brexit The letting and content of Contracts shall conform to all statutory requirements, principally the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"), and be subject to any over-riding directives of the European Union relating to contracts and procurement. This Rule cannot be waived, since a failure to comply with legislation may result in a legal challenge with consequent reputational and financial risk. If you are uncertain, advice should be sought from a member of the Procurement Service or ~~the Monitoring Officer~~ Legal Services.

2.2 In estimating relevant contract values, officers shall have regard to the rules regarding aggregation. The estimated or proposed contract value is the value or consideration for the contract as a whole (not an annual value) and any contract with an option to extend the contract period will be valued to include any provision for such extension period. For example, a three year option to extend for a further two years will be valued as the consideration for a five year contract See Appendix 'A'.

Commented [JF3]: I have copied the aggregation rules from Appendix A as I thought they should also be in the main body of this document

2.3 Partnerships

~~2.4~~ 2.3 These Rules apply to any proposal for the Council to become involved in a joint venture or partnership, including the monitoring of any such arrangement.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1.27 cm, No bullets or numbering

- In relation to the Rules, a joint venture or partnership includes any arrangement involving one or more organisation in addition to the Council through which either a specific project or services within any of the functions of the Council are to be provided, and
- Provides a role for the Council or any of its members or officers in whatever structure is used to deliver the project or services involved (such structures may include, but are not limited to, companies, trusts and management committees).

2.45 Where partnership arrangements, or working with other bodies, are used in order to procure goods or provide services consultation must take place with the Monitoring Officer and ~~Chief Finance Officer~~Head of Finance and Resources prior to entering into such arrangements. Such arrangements should only be pursued on the basis that appropriate approval from the Council's statutory officers and from appropriate Council bodies has been secured prior to any formal commitments being given.

3. NORMAL PROCEDURE

3.1 These Rules relate to five categories of procurement based on the estimated value of the contract:

- £1 to £1,000
- £1001 to £5,000
- £5001 to £25,000
- £25,001 to £50000
- £50001 to £EU Threshold as amended each year
- Over the EU Threshold

The specific rules for each of the above categories is contained in part 5 of these rules

3.2 In all instances, goods, services or works should be obtained via one of the methods outlined below:

- in-house services (for example, printing and design etc.)
- established corporate contracts or framework agreements
- request for quotation
- Tender
- framework contracts established by Purchasing Consortia or other Local Authorities (following advice from the Procurement Service)
- for low-value purchases, Purchasing Cards can be used provided they are not used with the intention of undermining the use of approved or corporate contracts, or to circumvent the procedures set out within this document.

In considering whether to utilise any of the above options officers must take into account the fact that their use is subject to UK and European Law.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.27 cm, First line: 0 cm

In-house services can include services provided by either Council across the Strategic Alliance of Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.

3.3 Orders and payments for goods, services and works shall be undertaken in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

3.4 Before entering into a contract, the ~~authorised officer~~ Contracting Officer must:

- (a) Be satisfied that a specification (where appropriate) that will form the basis of the contract has been prepared (the specification should be retained on the appropriate contract file held within the service),
- (b) Have prepared and documented an estimate of the cost of the contract including, where appropriate, any maintenance and on-going costs (the estimate should be retained on the appropriate contract file held within the service),
- (c) Ensure that all evaluation criteria have been determined in advance, put into order of relative importance with weightings for each element and published in the tender pack;
- (d) For contracts where there are risks, and for all contracts over £750,000, produce and maintain a documented risk register for the procurement process and for the eventual contractual relationship. As a minimum documentation should be maintained analysing all risks, identifying how they will be managed, and naming the responsible officer(s).

3.5 Before entering into a contract the ~~authorised officer~~ Contracting Officer must:

- (a) Be satisfied about the technical capability of such proposed contractor and be satisfied that s/he has the power and authority to enter into the contract;
and
- (b) Ensure that these Rules and the Code of Practice have been complied with, and that the proposed contract represents value for money; and
- (c) For all contracts that exceed £750,000, the authorised officer shall undertake appropriate checks to ensure that the proposed contractor has the financial and resource capacity (taking account of contract value and risk) to perform the contract (unless the contractor has already been subjected to a recent satisfactory financial check). Financial vetting shall be undertaken by a designated financial officer, who shall advise on what, if any, security should be provided by the contractor.

3.6 Advertising

All tenders shall be advertised and, where appropriate, full details should be available for download from the website sourcederbyshire.co.uk. As part of the Government's Transparency Agenda details of all forthcoming contracts should be published on the Council's website at the earliest opportunity. Such details

should be notified via email to the Chief Finance Officer. When the contract is above £25,000 details must also be published on the Government's Contracts Finder website. Details of such contracts must be provided to the Procurement Service who will arrange for appropriate advertising to be undertaken. Again such communication should be via email. Contract award notices shall also be published on the website and on Contracts Finder within 90 days of the contract being advertised.

Officers should consider whether the contract will be of benefit to other public sector bodies. If so consideration should be given to including text along the following lines in the advert:

"Tenderers should be aware that although the contracting authority for the purposes of this procurement is North East Derbyshire District Council one or more other local authorities and/or public bodies may choose to access the concluded contract, without creating any obligation on behalf of any of them to do so."

Such text should only be incorporated with the approval of the Procurement Service.

- 3.7 All EU notices shall be referred, in advance of sending to the OJEU, to the Procurement Service to advise on wording.
- 3.8 Where the contract is over the OJEU threshold the Council must offer unrestricted and full direct free of charge access online to the procurement documents from the date of publication of the notice in OJEU.

4 EXEMPTIONS TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

4.1 In exceptional circumstances and ~~Subject~~ to statutory requirements tenders need not be invited in accordance with these Rules in the following cases:

- (a) In the case of the supply of goods:
 - (i) the goods or materials are proprietary articles ~~and in the opinion of the appropriate Senior Officer~~ no reasonably satisfactory alternative is available. A proprietary article is an item which the vendor has exclusive rights to sell.
- (b) The work to be executed or the goods or services to be supplied are controlled by a statutory body and there is no reasonable prospect that works, goods or services can be executed or supplied by another statutory or non-statutory body.
- (c) The work to be executed or the goods or services to be supplied constitutes an extension to an existing contract and ~~it is the view of the Senior Officer~~ that it would not be in the interest of the service or the Council to tender the contract. ~~The Senior Officer or his or her nominee~~

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.27 cm, Hanging: 0.98 cm

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

~~should consult with the Procurement Service and a record of the decision must be placed on the project file.~~

- (d) The contract is for the execution of work or the supply of goods or services ~~certified by the appropriate Senior Officer~~ to be required so urgently as to preclude the invitation of tenders. ~~The appropriate Portfolio Holder shall be kept informed of such decisions and a record of the decision shall be retained by the service and a copy sent to the Procurement Service.~~
- (e) The contract relates to commissioning ~~of, such as~~ projects funded by external grant where, for example, there is no (or insufficient) marketplace to tender for the supply of goods, services or works required OR The contract relates to a project where there is no (or insufficient) marketplace to tender for the supply of goods, services or works required

A decision on whether any of the above exemptions applies shall be made only by a Senior Officer by a formal Delegated Decision. In making the decision the Senior Officer shall consult with the Procurement Service and the relevant Portfolio Holder

~~All contracts that fall within the above exemptions shall be notified in writing to the Procurement Service.~~

- 4.2 ~~Nothing contained in the above exceptions exempts officers either from using the Council's internal services where appropriate, or from following established arrangements in Rule 3.2. Officers should ensure that the best possible balance of value for money and quality is obtained for the Council.~~
- 4.3 Tenders need not be invited where they have been undertaken by any consortium, collaboration or similar body, of which the Council is able to access contracts. Officers should consult the Procurement Service to ensure that any contracts let by such a consortium, collaboration or similar body are in accordance with UK and EU procurement directives and regulations.
- 4.4 Where the Council acts as lead body on a consortium or collaborative arrangement, the procedures for tendering contained within these Rules shall be followed.

5 CONTRACTING & FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

- 5.1 Contracting Officers should look to order goods and services that are required in-house or through a framework or consortium arrangement illustrated as in Rule 3.2. If the Council or the consortium providing them do not have the goods or services or resources available to meet the reasonable needs of the service and there is no suitable framework then an alternative supply may be sourced following the rules set out below. In these circumstances the ~~authorised officer~~ Contracting must record why the goods or services have been procured through other means, and retain a formal copy of that document. In all circumstances a purchase order must be issued as required by financial regulations.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.27 cm, Hanging: 1.06 cm

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.33 cm, First line: 0.21 cm

5.2 It is good practice (for all but small value and routine purchases) to obtain a written quotation. For further information on this, please contact the Procurement Service.

5.3 Contracts £1 to £1000

Procurement of goods and services estimated to be for amounts up to £1000 shall be by oral or written quotation and preferably from at least three suppliers, ~~unless an arrangement under 3.2 has already been established for the goods, services or works required.~~ There is no mandatory procurement involvement.

5.4 Contracts £1001 to £5000

Procurement of goods and services estimated to be for amounts in the range £1001 to £5000 shall be by written quotation from at least three suppliers, ~~unless an arrangement under 3.2 has already been established for the goods, services or works required.~~ There is no mandatory procurement involvement.

5.5 Contracts £5001 to £25000

Procurement of goods and services estimated to be for amounts in the range £5,001 to £25000 shall be by ~~formal written~~ request for quotation (RFQ) from at least three suppliers, unless an arrangement under 3.2 has already been established for the goods, services or works required. Contracting Officers should seek advice from Procurement prior to commencing the procurement. ~~There is no mandatory procurement involvement.~~

5.6 Contracts £25,001 to £50,000

Procurement of goods and services estimated to be for amounts in the range £25,001 to £50000 shall be by ~~formal written~~ request for quotation (RFQ) from at least three suppliers, ~~unless an arrangement under 3.2 has already been established for the goods, services or works required unless Procurement Services advises that a formal Invitations to Tender should be undertake.~~ Details must also be published on the Government's Contracts Finder website, which must be done through the Procurement Service.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.27 cm

5.7 Contracts £50001 to EU Threshold as amended each year

Procurement of goods and services estimated to be for amounts in the range £50001 to EU THRESHOLD shall be by formal open Invitation to Tender (ITT), ~~unless an arrangement under 3.2 has already been established for the goods, services or works required,~~ whereupon mini competition will be encouraged with at least three approved suppliers. For evaluation purposes, an invitation to the evaluation meeting may be issued to officers from Finance, Legal and Audit along with the relevant Portfolio Holder or substitute and the appropriate commissioning officer.

5.8 Contracts EU Threshold and above

Procurement of goods and services estimated to be for amounts in the range EU Threshold and above shall be by formal open Invitation to Tender (ITT).

Where contracts of this value are undertaken then appropriate professional support must be secured from either the Procurement Service or an appropriately qualified external advisor. Both the Monitoring Officer and the ~~Chief Finance Officer~~Head of Finance and Resources must be made aware of the position.

In considering whether or not a procurement exercise is subject to OJEU requirements you must consult with ~~Legal Services~~Procurement. In particular you should consider whether extensions to a contract or operating it for a period in excess of one year will breach OJEU financial limits. Where any contract has a value above or approaching OJEU limits it is the responsibility of the client officer to ensure that appropriate legal advice is secured throughout the tendering and contractual process.

5.9 SME Participation

To facilitate SME participation in awards of contracts, consideration should be given to dividing contracts into smaller lots where appropriate. Procurement Services will advise on whether a contract could be divided. Where a contract may be divided the Contracting Officer shall consult with a Senior Officer. If a decision is taken not to divide a contract into lots then the ~~responsible officer~~Contracting Officer must maintain a written summary of the reasoning underlying that decision.

6 PROBITY

- 6.1 In every instance appropriate written documentation must be retained together with the rationale for the decision making process. This documentation shall meet as a minimum the requirements specified in the 2015 Public Contract Regulations. In addition, any information that may be required for submitting annual reports to the Government or other agencies must be maintained.
- 6.2 Documentation in either paper or electronic format must be appropriately filed and retained for an appropriate period of time. The Council's Document Retention Policy will provide appropriate background guidance but ultimately the senior officer involved must determine the retention period.
- 6.3 All contracts for goods, services and works must be registered on the Contracts Register and the original contract documents held centrally and securely in Legal Services.
- 6.4 Tenderers may be offered a debrief to assist them in preparing future bids. The ~~relevant officer~~Contracting Officer should also keep a record of all debrief requests and responses.
- 6.5 In accordance with EC Procurement Directives, any company responding to an EU tender shall be excluded from the tender process if it, or its directors have been convicted of; corruption, bribery, cheating the revenue, fraud or theft, fraudulent trading, an offence in connection with taxation, an offence under Counter Terrorism legislation or money laundering. Where a service has information relating to the above, contact ~~the Monitoring Officer~~Legal Services or the Procurement Service for advice.

7 RECEIPT AND CUSTODY

- 7.1 Tenders are only managed by way of a corporate e-tendering system operated on the Council's behalf by the Procurement Service. This provides a clear electronic audit trail of the tender process.
- 7.2 Responses to pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQs) and quotations (RFQ's) are not deemed to be tenders and should be returned to the originating officer, either via hard copy or electronically.

8 OPENING TENDERS

- 8.1 All e-tenders will be submitted to and held in a secure electronic vault. This may only be opened by the Procurement Service after the due date for tenders has closed.
- 8.2 Chairman. The lead officer of the evaluation team is responsible for ensuring that the team is adequately resourced to ensure compliance with the Regulations and with accepted good practice. A report outlining the results of the evaluation process will then be presented to Cabinet, if over the Key Decision threshold, to approve the award of the contract.

9 EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF TENDERS

- 9.1 Where a tender is submitted in competition and is received after the specified time then it shall be disqualified. Before the specified time has been reached, the Monitoring Officer may determine whether to extend the deadline.

10 ACCEPTANCE

- 10.1 Contracts shall be evaluated and awarded in accordance with the evaluation criteria issued with the tender documentation. Only those tenders that comply with the evaluation criteria shall be considered for acceptance. Tenders must be accepted on the basis of "most economically advantageous" tender (MEAT) that complies with requirements of tender documents, is not excluded by virtue of Regulation 57 of the Regulations and meets the selection criteria. Cost-effectiveness and the price-quality ratio may be taken into account when determining MEAT.
- 10.2 A tenderer who submits a qualified or conditional tender shall be given the opportunity to withdraw the qualification or condition without amendment to the tender. If the tenderer fails to do so the tender must be rejected.
- 10.3 Prior to final contract award, the contractor must provide evidence of adequate insurance to cover both public and employers' liability, and produce such evidence during the life of the contract at the reasonable request of the authorised officer.

10.4 For all procurements covered by the EU Directives, a statutory minimum standstill time after the award decision is issued is required to allow companies an opportunity to challenge the decision. The standstill time depends on the circumstances and is set out in Regulation 87 of the Regulations.

A voluntary waiting period is operated for procurements below the EU threshold, at the discretion of the Procurement Service.

The notification of the award decision, based on the most economically advantageous tender, must be issued in line with the timescales of the standstill period and should contain;

- the award criteria;
- the reasons for the decision, including the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender and the score (if any) obtained by the recipient and the successful tender;
- the name of the winning tenderer;
- the confirmation of the standstill period.

10.5 For all sub-OJEU threshold contracts, the following details of contracts that have been awarded should be advertised on the Contracts Finder website:

- name of contractor;
- date contract entered into;
- contract value;
- whether contractor was SME or VCSE.

10.6 All contracts must be notified to the Procurement Service, including performance monitoring information, with a copy to the Head of Finance and Resources.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1.25 cm

10.7 All contracts with a value above the Key Decision threshold must be approved by the Executive. All other contracts may be authorised by a Senior Officer

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, Hanging: 1.25 cm

10.8 Any DD that authorises the approval of a contract shall set out the procurement process that was undertaken
Chief Finance Officer.

Formatted: Tab stops: 5.19 cm, Left

11 NOMINATED/NAMED SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

11.1 It is recommended that contracts are awarded to a single entity or lead contractor, who in turn will take contractual responsibility for the performance (and risks) for all sub-contractors and supply-chains. This reduces the risk of the Council becoming party to disputes between contractors.

12 ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS

- 12.1 ~~An authorised officer~~The Council may only appoint external consultants or advisors providing professional or consulting services if such services are not available within the Council or if Council officers providing them do not have the resources to meet the needs of the service. Where such services are available in-house, the ~~authorised officer~~Contracting Officer must consult with a Senior Officer before taking any decision to make an external appointment.
- 12.2 Consideration should be given to using the appropriate frameworks for business, professional, and ICT consultancy services. Advice should be sought from the Procurement Service.
- 12.3 External consultants and technical officers engaged to supervise contracts must follow these Rules as applicable and their contracts for services must state this requirement.
- 12.4 Procurement plans and / or tenders prepared by external consultants on behalf of the Council must be referred to Legal Services and Head of Finance and Resources~~the Monitoring Officer or Chief Finance Officer~~ for approval and advice.
- 12.5 The ~~relevant officer~~Contracting is required to liaise with the Procurement Service in respect of all consultancy and advisor contracts where the value of the contract is above £5,000. In estimating relevant contract values, officers shall have regard to the rules regarding aggregation. See appendix 'A' Rule 2.2 above
- 12.6 All contracts for external consultants and advisors shall explicitly require that the consultants or advisors provide without delay any or all documents and records maintained by them relating to the services provided on request of the Contracting Officer~~authorised officer~~, and lodge all such documents and records with the appropriate officer at the end of the contract.
- 12.7 The Contracting Officer ~~authorised officer~~ shall ensure that any consultant working for the Council has appropriate indemnity insurance.

13 CONTRACT CONDITIONS

- 13.1 Every contract for goods or services regardless of value shall be in writing and shall specify:
- (1) the work, materials, matters or things to be furnished had or done;
 - (2) the price to be paid, with a statement of discounts or other deductions; and
 - (3) the time, or times within which the contract is to be performed.

Every contract over £~~750~~,000 shall be in a form approved by ~~the Team Manager (Solicitor) or their nominee~~Legal Services.

Formatted: Left

14 EXTENDING EXISTING CONTRACTS

- 14.1 ~~The authorised officer, subject to the budget being available, and after consultation with the appropriate Senior Officer, may extend a contract subject to the extension being within the scope of the original scheme (subject to Rule 4.1.c enables contracts to be extended. The Contracting Officer must ensure that there is sufficient budget available for the extension.)~~
- 14.2 If the original contract was subject to the EU procurement regulations, the contract can only be extended if it meets one of the six statutory grounds as set out in Regulation 72 of the Regulations.

15 PERFORMANCE BONDS AND GUARANTEES

- 15.1 In the case of all contracts valued above £750,000 the authorised officer shall determine, based on advice from the ~~Chief Finance Officer~~ Head of Finance and resources, the degree of security (if any) required to protect the Council from a contractor default. This may be a performance bond or some other form of financial or performance guarantee.
- 15.2 Where an order is placed with a Council in-house service and work forming part of that order is sub-contracted to an external company, then the provisions of Rule 15.1 will apply.
- 15.3 Where a performance bond and/or parent company guarantee is required, then the tender documents must provide for this.

16 LIQUIDATED DAMAGES

- 16.1 Any contract which is estimated to exceed £100,000 in value or amount, and is for the execution of works, or for the supply of goods or materials by a particular date or series of dates, may provide for liquidated damages. The amount to be specified in each such contract shall be determined by a Senior Officer in consultation with Legal Services.

17. CONTRACT FORMALITIES

- 17.1 Agreements shall be completed as follows:

Total Value	Method of Completion	By
Up to £ 7550 ,000	Signature	Senior Officer see 17.2
£ 7550 ,001 and above	Sealed	see 17.3

17.2 Signature

The *Officer* responsible for securing signature of the contract must ensure that the person signing for the other contracting party has authority to bind it.

17.3 Sealing

Where contracts are completed by each side adding their formal seal, the affixing of the Council's seal will be attested by the Monitoring Officer or anyone authorised by the Monitoring Officer ~~Solicitor to the Council, or in their absence, anyone delegated the function by the Solicitor to the Council~~ together with the ~~Chairman of the Council, or in their absence, another~~ a Councillor.

An entry of every sealing shall be made and consecutively numbered in a book kept for the purpose. The seal must not be affixed without the authority of the *Cabinet*, a *Committee*, a *Portfolio Holder*, or a *Senior Officer* acting under delegated powers. A contract must be sealed where:

- the Council may wish to enforce the contract more than six years after its end; or
- the price paid or received under the contract is a nominal price and does not reflect the value of the goods or services; or
- there is any doubt about the authority of the person signing for the other contracting party; or
- the *Total Value* exceeds £7550,000.

17.4 Archiving & lodgement of records

The original sealed contract must be deposited with the Council's Legal Services and recorded on the Contracts Register.

Appendix A - Financial Thresholds and Aggregation Rule

Contract Value		Process	Award Procedure based on	Contract Opportunity Publication/Route	Documentation
From	To				
£0	£1,000	Oral quotation	<u>Preferably Aat</u> least 3 oral quotations	No mandatory procurement involvement	Employee identifying need to record details on quotation database.
£1,001	£5,000	Written quotation	Minimum of 3 written quotations	No mandatory procurement involvement	Employee identifying need to record details on quotation database.
£5,001	£25,000	RFQ (Request for quotation)	3 written Quotations based on a RFQ document with simplified Ts&Cs	<u>Advice to be obtained from Procurement Services before commencing procurement</u> No mandatory procurement involvement.	Must be based on a written specification provided to the supplier by the Council. Quotation may be delivered by e-mail or provided through an electronic RFQ system. Council Ts&Cs must be accepted.
£25,001	£50,000	RFQ (Request for quotation) <u>Procurement may advise to undertake a formal tender in which case the procedure below should be followed.</u>	3 written Quotations based on a RFQ document with simplified Ts&Cs	Mandatory procurement involvement. Advertised in Source Derbyshire and the electronic RFQ system (INTEND). Contracts over £25,000 also published on Contracts Finder.	Must be based on a written specification provided to the supplier by the Council. Quotation may be delivered by e-mail or provided through an electronic RFQ system. Council Ts&Cs must be accepted.
£ 50,001	Up to EU Threshold as amended each year	Formal tender <u>(report to Executive if over the Key Decision Threshold)</u> (Report to Executive(BDC)/ Cabinet(NEDDC) if over the Key Decision Threshold)	Full tender process	Mandatory procurement involvement. Advertised in Source Derbyshire and Contracts Finder, if appropriate INTEND Specialist publication if appropriate	ITT documentation as relevant with sealed bids which may be submitted via an electronic tendering process. Must be based on a written specification provided to the supplier by the Council. Council Ts&Cs must be accepted.

EU Threshold	above	Formal tender (Report to Executive(BDC)/ Cabinet(NEDDC) <i>if over the Key Decision Threshold</i>)	Full tender process	Mandatory procurement involvement. OJEU, Advertised in Source Derbyshire , if appropriate INTEND Specialist publication if appropriate	PQQ and ITT documentation as relevant with sealed bids which may be submitted via an electronic tendering process. Must be based on a written specification provided to the supplier by the Council. Council Ts&Cs must be accepted.
--------------	-------	---	---------------------	---	--

NB The Contract Value shall be calculated as follows: The estimated or proposed contract value is the value or consideration for the contract as a whole (not an annual value) and any contract with an option to extend the contract period will be valued to include also any provision for such extended period (e.g. a three year contract with an option to extend for a further two years will be valued as the consideration for a five year contract).

Appendix B – Glossary of Definitions;

~~**Authorised Officer** Means any officer who by the nature of his or her job, or as directed by a manager, is authorised to place orders.~~

~~**Code of Practice** Means the Council's Code of Practice for Procurement including accompanying guidance.~~

Formatted: Indent: Hanging: 1.27 cm, Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers

~~**Contract** Means any form of contract, agreement or other arrangement for the supply of goods, services or works.~~

Formatted: Indent: Hanging: 1.27 cm, Adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Adjust space between Asian text and numbers

~~**Goods** Covers all supplies and materials that the Council purchases or obtains.~~

~~**Senior Officer** Means one of the following: Directors and Heads of Service.~~

~~**Services** Includes all services which the Council purchases or obtains including advice, specialist consultancy work, agency staff, etc.~~

~~**Works** Includes all construction and repairs in respect of physical assets (buildings, roads, etc.).~~

Formatted: Justified, Indent: Hanging: 1.27 cm

