



Bridgend County Borough Council

Contract Procedure Rules

Contents

Rule Number	Rule	Page
1	Interpretation	3
2	Compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and Relevant European and U.K. Legislation	5
3	Exemptions and Waiver	7
4	Delegated Authority to Enter into Contracts	12
5	Declaration of Interest	13
6	Selective Tendering, Invitation of Tenders and Quotations	14
7	Thresholds and Advertising Requirements	19
8	Pre-Tender Market Research and Consultation	21
9	Procurement by Consultants	21
10	Other Procurement Procedures	21
11	Naming Products, Sub-contractors and Suppliers	22
12	Electronic Tendering	22
13	Submission and Custody of Tenders and Quotations	23
14	Opening of Electronic Tenders	23
15	Amendment of Tenders	24
16	Post-tender Negotiation and Clarification	24
17	Evaluation of Tenders	25
18	Acceptance and Award of Tenders	25
19	Letters of Intent	26
20	Execution of Contracts	26
21	Assignment and novation	27
22	Termination of Contracts	27
23	Financial Limits	27
24	Record and Document Retention and Control	28
25	Contract Management	28
26	Corporate Contracts Register	29

1. Interpretation

In these Contract Procedure Rules:-

“the Cabinet” means the Executive established under Part II of the Local Government Act 2000.

“the Cabinet Functions” means the functions for which the Cabinet is responsible.

“the Cabinet Members” means the Executive Leader and the members of the executive.

“the Appropriate Chief Officer” means whichever of the following is responsible in any particular case for inviting tenders or placing an official order:-

- The Chief Executive
- The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services
- The Corporate Director – Education and Family Support
- The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
- The Corporate Director – Communities.

This definition also includes any Officer to which functions have been delegated under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation

“the Appropriate Body” means the Cabinet, and any committee, panel or other body to which power has been delegated to accept tenders for Contracts of the category for which tenders are to be or have been invited.

“the Chief Audit Officer” means the Head of Audit Service for the Council.

“the Chief Finance Officer” means the nominated Section 151 officer under the Local Government Act 1972 for the time being having statutory responsibility for the administration of the Council's financial affairs.

“Community Benefits” shall include any benefit to the local community which does not directly positively impact on the operation of the Council. This can include the provision of additional facilities/resources or the training of primarily inactive people through programmes which may include apprenticeships. “Core” benefits are those which are directly related to the purpose of the Contract and can be measured as an outcome. “Non-Core” benefits are those which are not essential in the delivery of the service and will not be assessed as part of the tender evaluation process.

“Contract” means any form of Contract or agreement entered into by the Council with any other party for the supply of goods, services or works, or any combination thereof.

“Contractor” means any person or organisation that undertakes a Contractual relationship with the Council.

“Contract Value” means the total value of the Contract over the whole term of the Contract. If there is no total price then the value of the Contract is to be calculated on the expected aggregate spend over the four year period, if there is no fixed term for the Contract. In the case where there is a Contract term but no total price then the value of the Contract is to be calculated on the expected expenditure over the whole Contract period, in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. All Contract values are exclusive of VAT.

The “Corporate Procurement Manager” means the lead Officer for the Corporate Procurement Unit, who has functional responsibility for the delivery of Procurement strategy and guidance.

“Corporate Contracts Register” means a live database of contracts let by the Council.

“Data Protection Legislation” means (i) the GDPR and any applicable national implementing Law, as amended from time to time; (ii) the Data Protection Act 2018 (subject to Royal Assent) to the extent that it relates to processing of personal data and privacy; and (iii) all applicable Law about the processing of personal data and privacy;

“EU” means the European Union.

“Form of Tender” means a covering document signed by the tenderer to indicate that it understands the tender and accepts various terms and conditions and other requirements of participating in the exercise a copy of which is attached at Appendix 3 to these Contract Procedure Rules

“Framework Agreement” means an agreement between one or more Contracting authorities and one or more economic operators, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing Contracts to be awarded during a given period, in particular with regard to price and, where appropriate, the quantity envisaged.

“GDPR” means the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679);

“Internal Providers” means an organisation managed, funded and staffed by the Council, which provides a service to various directorates and schools as its core business.

“the Monitoring Officer” means the officer for the time being designated as such under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

“Most Economically Advantageous Tender” (MEAT) means criterion which enables the Council to take account of criteria that reflect qualitative, technical and sustainable aspects of the tender submission as well as price when reaching an award decision

“Parties” means collectively the Council and any other party or more than one party entering into a Contract or agreement.

“Pre-tender Client Information Sheet” means a document that requires completion by the client before going out to tender or to obtain quotations a copy of which is attached at Appendix 2 to these Contract Procedure Rules.

"Trade Journal" means a newspaper or journal circulating among such persons or bodies as undertake Contracts of the category for which tenders are to be invited.

Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

Any reference to any statutory provision shall include reference to any statutory modification amendment or re-enactment thereof and any subordinate legislation made under them.

2. COMPLIANCE WITH CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES AND RELEVANT EUROPEAN AND UK LEGISLATION

2.1 Every Contract for the sale, purchase or hire of goods by or the carrying out of works or provision of services for the Council shall comply with:

(a) the Council’s Constitution, including in particular Financial Procedure Rules, Scheme of Delegation, Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and the Corporate Procurement Strategy;

(b) all relevant statutory provisions including in particular, but not limited to, the Local Government Act 1988 Part II, the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997, the Local Government Act 1999 Part I, and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015

(c) Achieve Value for Money for public money spent (Most Economically Advantageous Tender);

(d) Be consistent with the highest standards of integrity, having regard to The Bribery Act 2010 and The Competition Act 1998

(e) Ensure fairness in allocating public Contracts;

(f) Comply with all legal requirements_in particular_any relevant EU law, EU Treaty, and EU public procurement Directives as implemented in the legislation of England and Wales;

(g) Comply with the Equality Act 2010;

(h) Comply with the Modern Slavery Act 2015

(i) Comply with relevant employment legislation

(j) Support the Council’s corporate and departmental aims and policies and Comply with any council policy

(k) Comply with Data Protection Legislation

(l) Apply the Welsh Government approved Supplier Qualification Information Database (SQuID) approach as standard to Supplier selection

- 2.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the Appropriate Chief Officer shall ensure that where the estimated Contract Value or amount of a proposed Contract (or series of Contracts) is likely to be equal to or to exceed the thresholds set by the EU for the public procurement Contracts referred to in Rule 2.1 above, then the tendering procedures to be adopted must be in accordance with the relevant EU Directive, and any statutory provision relating thereto.
- 2.3 Where an invitation to tender is in excess of £100,000 for goods and services and £250,000 for works the appropriate Service budget holder shall prepare the relevant part of the Pre-tender Client Information Sheet and submit to the Corporate Procurement Manager and Chief Finance Officer for approval.
- 2.4 The procurement of goods, services or works shall not be divided into more than one Contract where that would result in the avoidance of the Contract Procedure Rules or would affect the application of the Contract Procedure Rules. This Rule shall, however, not be construed as to avoid the requirements relating to “lots” under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 2.5 The procurement of goods, services and works shall not be artificially over estimated or under-estimated which would result in either the avoidance of the Contract Procedure Rules or which would affect the application of the Contract Procedure Rules.
- 2.6 It shall be a condition of Contract between the Council and any person (not being an Officer of the Council) who is required to supervise a Contract on its behalf that, in relation to such Contract, s/he shall comply with the requirements of these Contract Procedure Rules and the Council's Financial Procedure Rules as if s/he were an Appropriate Chief Officer.
- 2.7 The Monitoring Officer with the agreement of the Chief Finance Officer may issue procurement guidance or protocols, and all Chief Officers and any person who is required to supervise a Contract on behalf of the Council shall have due regard to any such guidance or protocol.
- 2.8 The award of work to Internal Providers is not covered by or subject to these Rules. Any work subsequently awarded by the internal provider to Sub-Contractors will be let in accordance with these Contract Procedure Rules.
- 2.9 Any failure by officers to comply with any of the provisions of these Contract Procedure Rules or associated guidance adopted by the Council may result in disciplinary action.
- 2.10 Any procurement carried out on behalf of the Council may only be undertaken by officers with the appropriate delegated authority to carry out such tasks as set out in the Council's Scheme of Delegation contained within the Council's Constitution.

3. EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVER

Exemptions

- 3.1 Exemption from any of the following provisions of these Contract Procedure Rules may be made:-
 - 3.1.1 In an emergency situation in which injury or damage to persons or property is threatened in which case the Appropriate Chief Officer may take any necessary action but must report the circumstances and the action taken to the next meeting of the Appropriate Body.
 - 3.1.2 For the acquisition or disposal of land, unless it involves a development agreement which would require a tender process.
 - 3.1.3 In the case of Contracts for services entered into in pursuance of powers under the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990, the Children Act 1989 , Children's (Leaving Care) Act 2000 for the benefit of an individual client, the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing, insofar as it is consistent with the law, will make appropriate arrangements for provision.
 - 3.1.4 In the case of professional arrangements between the Councils Solicitor and Counsel or external Solicitors, the Corporate Director - Operational and Partnerships Services will not be expected to comply with the requirements of this Rule when instructing and briefing Counsel or Solicitors. The Corporate Director - Operational and Partnerships Services will make arrangements to ensure that a record is kept of all such instructions or briefs together with a record of Counsel's/ Solicitors fees.
 - 3.1.5 Where goods, services and works are procured by another public body on behalf of the Council or through collaborative arrangements awarded via the National Procurement Service or by the Council through a Contract properly let by another such organisation, then those organisations Procurement / Contract Procedure Rules will apply subject to compliance with European Union and Procurement Law of England and Wales.
 - 3.1.6 Where a tendering procedure is prescribed by legislation.
 - 3.1.7 For the carrying out of security works where the publication of documents in accordance with the tendering procedure could prejudice the security of the work to be done, provided the method of tendering has been approved by the Appropriate Body.
 - 3.1.8 Contracts which can only be performed by a statutory undertaker.
 - 3.1.9 Employment Contracts which make an individual a direct employee of the Council.

- 3.1.10 Contracts between entities within the public sector as prescribed in Regulation 12 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, including those Contracts where Regulation 12 would be applicable if the Contract Value was not below the financial thresholds specified in or by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 3.2 Waiver from obtaining quotations or tendering will only apply to the criteria listed in Rules 3.2.1 to 3.2.9 below and any waiver must be obtained, either:
- (a) in respect of any new Contract or the modification of an existing Contract (including any extension of a Contract) from the Appropriate Body where the value of the Contract or modification of a Contract exceeds £100,000; or
- (b) in respect of any new Contract or the modification of an existing Contract (including any extension of a Contract) in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegations where the value of the Contract or modification of Contract does not exceed £100,000
- 3.2.1 Where no quotes or tenders have been received in response to the Council's procedure for obtaining competitive offers. This is to include the open procedure, restricted procedure, Competitive Dialogue, Competitive Procedure with Negotiation, Innovative Partnerships procedures where procurement falls within the scope of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 which implement EU Procurement Directives.
- 3.2.2 The Contract involved is purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development under the conditions stated in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 which implement EU Procurement Directives
- 3.2.3 The works/goods/services can be provided only by a particular Tenderer. Single tender procedure shall only be permitted when a single firm or Contractor or a proprietary item or service of a special character is required and justified and is due to the needs of the service .
- 3.2.4 Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the Council and in accordance with the strict conditions contained in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which implement EU Procurement Directives.
- 3.2.5 New works/services, constituting a repetition of existing works/services and ordered in accordance with the strict conditions contained in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 which implement EU Procurement Directives, subject to approval in accordance with Rule 3.4
- 3.2.6 A Contract awarded to the successful tenderer or one of them after a design contest.
- 3.2.7 For supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market.
- 3.2.8 For the purchase of supplies on particularly advantageous terms from a Supplier which is definitely winding up its business activities, or from the receivers or liquidators of an insolvency, bankruptcy, an arrangement with creditors or a similar procedure.

3.2.9 Contracts and frameworks agreements may be modified without the requirement for a new procurement procedure in accordance with any of the following Rules:

3.2.9.1 Where the modifications in a Contract or Framework Agreement have been provided for in the initial procurement documents in clear, precise and unequivocal review clauses, which may include price revision clauses or options, provided that such clauses:

- (a) state the scope and nature of possible modifications or options as well as the conditions under which they may be used, and
- (b) do not provide for modifications or options that would alter the overall nature of the Contract or the Framework Agreement;

3.2.9.2 Subject to Rule 3.2.9.7 and Rule 3.2.9.8 where the modification(s) in a Contract or Framework Agreement is for additional works, services or supplies by the original Contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, and where a change of Contractor:

- (i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, and
- (ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the Council,

provided that any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original Contract;

For the purpose of the calculation of the price the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the Contract includes an indexation clause.

3.2.9.3 Where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the Council having been duly diligent could not have foreseen;
- (ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract;
- (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original Contract or Framework Agreement.

For the purpose of the calculation of the price the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the Contract includes an indexation clause.

3.2.9.4 Where a new Contractor replaces the one to which the Council had initially awarded the Contract as a consequence of:

- (i) an unequivocal review clause or option in conformity with Rule 3.2.9.1, or
- (ii) universal or partial succession into the position of the initial Contractor, following corporate restructuring, including takeover, merger, acquisition or insolvency, of another economic operator that fulfils the criteria for qualitative selection initially established, provided that this does not entail other substantial modifications to the Contract and is not aimed at circumventing the application of the Public Contract Regulations 2015;

3.2.9.5 Where the modifications, irrespective of their value, are not substantial.

A modification shall be considered substantial where one or more of the following conditions is met:

- (a) the modification renders the Contract or the Framework Agreement materially different in character from the one initially concluded; or
- (b) the modification introduces conditions which, had they been part of the initial procurement procedure, would have—
 - (i) allowed for the admission of other candidates than those initially selected,
 - (ii) allowed for the acceptance of a tender other than that originally accepted, or
 - (iii) attracted additional participants in the procurement procedure;
- (c) the modification changes the economic balance of the Contract or the Framework Agreement in favour of the Contractor in a manner which was not provided for in the initial Contract or Framework Agreement;
- (d) the modification extends the scope of the Contract or Framework Agreement considerably;
- (e) a new Contractor replaces the one to which the Contracting authority had initially awarded the Contract in cases other than those provided for in Rule 3.2.9.4

3.2.9.6 Where the value of the modification is below both of the following values:—

- (a) the relevant applicable financial thresholds contained in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and

- (b) 10% of the initial Contract Value for service and supply Contracts and 15% of the initial Contract Value for works Contracts,

provided that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the Contract or Framework Agreement.

Where several successive modifications are made, the value shall be the net cumulative value of the successive modifications and the updated figure shall be the reference figure when the Contract includes an indexation clause.

3.2.9.7 Where several successive modifications are made:—

- (a) the limitations imposed by the proviso at the end of Rule 3.2.9.2 and by Rule 3.2.9.3 (iii) shall apply to the value of each modification; and
- (b) such successive modifications shall not be aimed at circumventing the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3.2.9.8 Where the Council has modified a Contract in accordance with Rule 3.2.9.2 or Rule 3.2.9.3 the Council is required to send a notice to that effect, in accordance with Regulation 51 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for publication. Such a notice shall contain the information set out in part G of Annex 5 to the Public Contracts Directives.

Notification of Waiver

- 3.3. If the Chief Officer is seeking from the Appropriate Body a waiver from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under Rule 3.2, the report to the Appropriate Body shall set out the reason for requiring the waiver and the Contract Procedure Rule(s) from which the waiver is required. The report shall include a legal and financial statement and shall highlight any future commitments (whether or not of a financial character) which the proposed Contract might entail.
- 3.4. Where the value of the waiver does not exceed £100,000, the reasons for requiring the waiver must be approved by the Corporate Procurement Manager, and recorded in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.
- 3.5. Where waiver is sought by a Chief Officer in respect of obtaining quotations or tendering, the report to the Appropriate Body or record of the decision under the Council's Scheme of Delegations shall in addition to the requirements of Rule 3.2 justify the use of an alternative method of selection so that propriety, value for money and compliance with European Union Procurement Directives and the applicable legislation of England and Wales can be demonstrated.
- 3.6. Purchasing arrangements made for the Council by the Corporate Procurement Manager do not constitute exceptions as such, because they are made under the full provisions of these Rules.

- 3.7. Correct use of these arrangements, as advised by the Corporate Procurement Manager will however be sufficient to ensure officers meet their responsibilities for compliance. Such arrangements are mandatory and include, but are not limited to,:
- 3.7.1. Purchasing Frameworks endorsed for use by the Council, where items are specified and costed and the option of a Direct Award has been provided for.i.e., no requirement to undertake a further mini competition
 - 3.7.2. Collaborative procurement arrangements undertaken by, or in consultation with the Corporate Procurement Manager
 - 3.7.3. Electronic systems and catalogues endorsed for use by the Council in procurement.
- 3.8 The Appropriate Chief Officer must ascertain whether there is a Framework Agreement approved by the Corporate Procurement Manager for use by the Council. Where currently valid frameworks are available, the framework must be used in accordance with the guidance provided by the Corporate Procurement Manager.
- 3.9 Any joint procurement arrangements with other local authorities and or public sector bodies including membership or use of any consortia must be approved by the Corporate Procurement Manager.

Established framework and consortia arrangements endorsed by the Corporate Procurement Manager for use by the Council shall be mandatory except where there is an applicable waiver or exemption, a copy of which shall be sent to the Corporate Procurement Manager.

- 3.10 Contracts to be awarded on the basis of a Framework Agreement must be in conformity with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which implement EU Procurement Directives. Where it is necessary to run a further mini competition, any subsequent mini-tender must be in accordance with the terms of the original collaborative arrangement, and the rules of the framework (except for the requirement to advertise and those stages in the procurement that are not applicable to a framework).
- 3.11 These Contract Procedure Rules do not apply to Contracts let by school or college governing bodies acting in accordance with their approved schemes of delegation or Contract procedure rules

4. Delegate Authority To Enter To Contracts

- 4.1 Each Cabinet Member has been allocated the following functions under Scheme A of the Council's Schemes of Delegations (Scheme for the Allocation of Cabinet Functions to Individual Cabinet Members) in respect of any proposed Contract relating to services falling within the Cabinet Member's

portfolio having an estimated value exceeding £1,000,000 but not exceeding £5,000,000:

- (a) To authorise the invitation of tenders;
- (b) To accept the Most Economically Advantageous Tender received and enter into a Contract, or the highest tender received where payment is to be received by the Council and enter into a Contract.
- (c) To authorise invitation of tenders, to accept a tender or enter into a Contract in accordance with any exemption under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- (d) To authorise invitation of tenders, to accept a tender or enter into a Contract in accordance with any permitted waiver under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

4.2 Each Appropriate Chief Officer has been allocated the following functions under Scheme B2 of the Council's Schemes of Delegations (Scheme for the Allocation of Functions to Executive Directors) in respect of any proposed Contract relating to services administered by their Directorate/Office having an estimated value not exceeding £1,000,000:

- (a) To authorise the invitation of tenders;
- (b) To accept the Most Economically Advantageous Tender received and enter into a Contract or the highest tender received where payment is to be received by the Council and enter into a Contract.
- (c) To authorise invitation of tenders, to accept a tender or enter into a Contract in accordance with any exemption under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
- (d) To authorise invitation of tenders, to accept a tender or enter into a Contract in accordance with any permitted waiver under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules

5. Declaration Of Interest

- 5.1 No member, employee or agent of the Council shall improperly use their position to obtain any personal or private benefit from any procurement entered into by the Council.
- 5.2 Members and employees of the Council shall comply with the requirements of Section 117 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Bribery Act 2010, and the Officers and Members code of conduct set out in the Constitution in respect of the declaration of interests in Contracts with the Council.
- 5.3 Such interests must be declared to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion in the appropriate registers

6. Selective Tendering, Invitation Of Tenders And Quotations

- 6.1 Subject to any overriding legislation requirements, all procurements shall be invited in accordance with either Rules 7, 8 or 9.
- 6.2 Where an invitation to tender is in excess of £100,000 for goods and services and £250,000 for works the appropriate Service budget holder shall prepare the relevant part of the Pre-tender Client Information Sheet and submit to the Corporate Procurement Manager and Chief Finance Officer for approval
- 6.3 A record of tenders and quotations shall be maintained by the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services, on the Corporate Contracts Register.
- 6.4 In the case of procurements that are required to be undertaken in accordance with the EU Procurement Directives and the Regulations that implement them in England and Wales, the advice of the Corporate Procurement Manager must be sought at the outset and at all subsequent stages of the procurement process, and the Pre-Tender Client Information Sheet must be completed. EU directives and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 will take precedence over these rules.
- 6.5 The value of a procurement means the estimated total monetary value over its full duration, including any extension options. Where there is no fixed term for the Contract, the value of the Contract shall be taken to be the estimated value of the Contract over a period of four years. No procurement may be artificially split to avoid compliance with these Contract Procedure Rules and EU procurement Directives as implemented in England and Wales. This Rule shall, however, not be construed as to avoid the requirements relating to “lots” under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 6.6 For works Contracts all Contractors must be registered and verified on Constructionline. Constructionline show the Contractors and categories which have been pre-assessed with a recommended contract value. The recommended contract value is based on a financial risk assessment and is the maximum limit of work that must be placed with a Contractor without additional safeguards.
- 6.7 Except in the circumstances described in Rule 7 invitations to tender for a works contract shall be sent by the Appropriate Chief Officer to at least five (except where legislation permits a lesser number or grant conditions dictate otherwise) of the persons or bodies pre-assessed for a contract of the relevant category and amount or value from the relevant list on Constructionline.
- 6.8 The basis of selection for those companies on Constructionline shall be by way of rotation and/or the suitability of Contractors to undertake the project. Reasons for such choice must be recorded

Quotations

- 6.9 . The invitation to submit quotations must include the specification, terms and conditions and evaluation criteria/weightings.
- 6.10 A reasonable time must be allowed for Suppliers to return bids. Unless otherwise dictated by urgency, a minimum time period of not less than 14days must be allowed for the return of quotations.
- 6.11 A record shall be kept by the Appropriate Chief Officer in a form approved by the Chief Finance Officer of the details of every such Contract exceeding £5,000 in value or amount and, in each case in which at least three alternative written offers or quotations were not obtained, the Appropriate Chief Officer shall also record the reasons why it was considered impracticable to do so. This should then be recorded on the Corporate Contracts Register.

Tenders

- 6.12 All of the invitation to tender documentation, including specification, evaluation criteria/weightings, must be approved by the Corporate Procurement Manager.
- 6.13 A minimum time period of not less than 14 days must be allowed for the return of tenders, except where the tender is subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in which case the time periods specified in the Regulations are applicable. A shorter period may be used for quotations in accordance with these Rules and any Guidance that may be issued.
- 6.14 For all Contracts over £100,000 the Council will consider taking into account social, economic and environmental issues when making procurement decisions. Please contact the Skills and Sustainable Development Manager for guidance. Where appropriate the Council will see to include Community Benefits clauses to maximise the benefits that such clauses can bring.
- 6.15 Where Community Benefits are included in any tender issued by the Council, this must be mentioned in the tender advertisement, indicating whether they are Core or Non-Core.
- 6.16 Every written Contract shall include the following clauses as a minimum:-
- (a) The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes provision for specification of standards of conduct in relation to Welsh Language. The Measure authorises the Welsh Language Commissioner to serve a compliance notice requiring compliance with specified standards as laid down by the Welsh Language Standards (No1) Regulations 2015.. Bridgend County Borough Council has been served with a Compliance Notice under the Measure. The Compliance Notice (a copy of which can be found at <http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/media/341711/20150930-dg-s-compliance-notice44-bridgend-county-borough-council.pdf>) places a legal obligation on the Council to comply with the notice. Failure to comply with any of the standards contained in the notice could result in a civil penalty imposed on the Council of up to £5,000. There is a requirement on third parties under

Regulation 1(5) of the Welsh Language Standards (No1) Regulations 2015 to comply with the standards when it carries out an activity or service on behalf of the Council. The Provider/Contractor/Supplier shall comply with all of the standards in accordance with the Compliance Notice. The Provider/Contractor/Supplier shall indemnify the Council from and against all and any actions costs, claims, proceedings, expenses, losses, damages, fines, actions and liabilities incurred by the Council as a result of a breach of this clause by the Provider/Contractor/Supplier, its staff or any Sub-Contractor of it.

- (b) The Provider/Contractor/Supplier shall ensure compliance with all applicable employment legislation, including any relevant regulations, directions or guidance in force during the term of the Agreement. In particular the Provider/Contractor/Supplier shall comply with the provisions of the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 and shall ensure all relevant working time as referred to in the National Minimum Wage Act 1998 is included in calculations for compliance with the National Minimum Wage Regulations and Working Time Regulations or amendments thereof.
- (c) In performing its obligations under the Contract, the Contractor shall:
 - (a) comply with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015; and
 - (b) have and maintain throughout the term of the Contract its own policies, codes of conduct and procedures to ensure its compliance; and
 - (c) not engage in any activity, practice or conduct that would constitute an offence under sections 1, 2 or 4 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 if such activity, practice or conduct were carried out in the UK; and
 - (d) require that each of its direct subcontractors and suppliers shall comply with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Contractor represents and warrants that at the date of this Contract neither the Contractor nor any of its officers, employees or other persons associated with it:

- (a) has been convicted of any offence involving slavery and human trafficking; and
- (b) having made reasonable enquiries, to the best of its knowledge, has been or is the subject of any investigation, inquiry or enforcement proceedings by any governmental, administrative or regulatory body regarding any offence or alleged offence of or in connection with slavery and human trafficking.

The Contractor shall implement due diligence procedures for its direct subcontractors and suppliers (and other participants in its supply chains to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its supply chains.

The Contractor shall implement an appropriate system of audit and training as necessary for its subcontractors that is designed to ensure compliance with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes,

regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Contractor shall notify the Local Authority as soon as it becomes aware of:

- (a) any breach, or potential breach of any applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015; and/or
- (b) any actual or suspected slavery or human trafficking in a supply chain which has a connection with this Contract.

The Contractor shall prepare and deliver to the Local Authority an annual basis on a date to be advised by the Local Authority a slavery and human trafficking report setting out the steps it has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains or in any part of its business.

The Contractor shall:

- (a) maintain a complete set of records to trace the supply chain of all works, goods and/or services provided to the Local Authority in connection with this Contract; and
- (b) permit the Local Authority on reasonable notice during normal business hours, but without notice in case of any reasonably suspected breach of this clause, to have access to and take copies of the Contractor's records and any other information and to meet with the Contractor's personnel to audit the Contractor's compliance with its obligations under this clause; and
- (c) permit the Local Authority on reasonable notice during normal business hours, but without notice in case of any reasonably suspected breach of this clause, to inspect the Contractor's workplaces and/or interview employees of the Contractor in the event that the Contractor is the subject of any investigation, inquiry or enforcement proceedings by any governmental, administrative or regulatory body regarding any offence or alleged offence of or in connection with slavery and human trafficking.

The Contractor shall:

- (a) implement a system of training for its employees, suppliers and subcontractors to ensure compliance with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015; and
- (b) keep a record of all training offered and completed by its employees, suppliers and subcontractors to ensure compliance with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and shall make a copy of the record available to the Local Authority on request.

The Contractor shall indemnify the Local Authority against any losses, liabilities, damages, costs (but not limited to legal fees) and expenses incurred by, or awarded against the Employer as a result of any breach of any applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern

Slavery Act 2015 resulting from any action or omission by the Contractor and /or its sub-contractors and/or suppliers.

The Local Authority may terminate the Contract with immediate effect by giving written notice to the Contractor if the Contractor commits a breach of any applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Contractor represents, warrants and undertakes that it conducts its business in a manner that is consistent with all applicable anti-slavery and human trafficking laws, statutes, regulations and codes from time to time in force including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

(d) "Equality Law" means the Equality Act 2010, any statutory code issued under it and any supplements to it as associated guidance published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and all other applicable UK legislation, statutory instruments and regulations in relation to equality and diversity

a. The Supplier shall perform its obligations under this Agreement (including those in relation to the Goods/Services) in accordance with:

(i) All applicable Equality Law (whether in relation to race, sex, gender reassignment, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy, maternity or otherwise);

(ii) the Authority's equality and diversity policies or procedures provided to the Supplier (as updated and provided to the Supplier from time to time); and

(iii) any other requirements and instructions that the Authority reasonably imposes in connection with any equality obligations imposed on the Authority at any time under the applicable Equality Law.

b. In addition to clause (a), the Supplier shall take all necessary steps, and inform the Authority of the steps taken, to prevent unlawful discrimination designated as such by any court or tribunal, or the Equality and Human Rights Commission (or any successor organisation).

c. The Supplier shall immediately notify the Authority if it becomes aware of any breach of clause (a) or (b).

6.17 Every written Contract shall include a clause empowering the Council to cancel the Contract and to recover from the Contractor the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation if either:-

(a) The Provider/Contractor/Supplier, any persons employed by them or anybody purporting to act on the their behalf, whether they are aware of their acts or not, shall have offered or given or agreed to give any officer or member of the Council any gift or consideration of any kind as an inducement or bribe to influence its decision in the tendering procedure, or in relation to any Contract with the Council shall have committed any offence under the Bribery Act 2010

or shall have given any fee or reward the receipt of which is an offence under Section 117(2) of the Local Government Act 1972

(b) The provider/Contractor/Supplier:-

(i) shall have communicated to any person other than the Council the amount or approximate amount of the proposed tender (other than in confidence in order to obtain quotations necessary for the preparation of the tender for insurance or to obtain any performance bond required by the Council); or

(ii) shall have entered into any agreement or arrangement with any person as to the amount of any proposed tender or that that person shall refrain from tendering.

6.18 All Contracts where a specification issued by the British Standards Institution or an European Standard is current at the date of the tender and is relevant shall require as a minimum that the goods and materials used in their execution shall be in accordance with that specification

7. Thresholds And Advertising Requirements

7.1 Thresholds for procurement do not apply to existing Framework Agreements endorsed for use by the Council.

7.2 Thresholds for all goods & services (except works Contracts) and advertising requirements are as follows and are set out in the Summary of Advertising (as attached at Appendix 1 to the Contract Procedure Rules) TC "goods & services except works" \f C \l "1" :

7.2.1 Up to £5,000 it is necessary only to demonstrate that value for money is being achieved, unless any grant funding conditions dictate otherwise.

7.2.2 From £5,001 to £25,000 Minimum of 3 quotes to be requested from businesses preferably registered on Sell2Wales, unless any grant funding conditions dictate otherwise.

7.2.3 From £25,001 to £100,000 all requirements to be openly advertised on Sell2Wales where practical and providing it represents best value for money. A minimum of three quotations must be invited when following a restricted procedure or when an advert has not been issued, unless any grant funding conditions dictate otherwise.

7.2.4 From £100,001 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Contract thresholds, requirements must be tendered, and advertised on Sell2Wales (as a minimum). Where the restricted procedure is used a minimum of five tenders must be invited, unless any grant funding conditions dictate otherwise.

7.2.5 Above the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Contract threshold, requirements must be tendered and advertised in the Official Journal of the EU, together with such other advertising as directed by the Corporate Procurement Manager.

7.3 Thresholds for Works Contracts and advertising requirements are as follows and are set out in the Summary of Advertising (as attached at Appendix 1 to the Contract Procedure Rules):

7.3.1 Contract Up to £5,000 it is necessary only to demonstrate that value for money is being achieved, using contractors with Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) accreditation and registered and verified on Constructionline unless any Grant conditions dictate otherwise.

7.3.2 From £5,001 to £25,000 quotations are to be requested from a minimum of three prospective Tenderers with Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) accreditation and registered and verified on Constructionline, unless any grant conditions dictate otherwise. Where the minimum number of Tenderers required through Constructionline are not available, the Corporate Procurement Unit will put an advertisement on Sell2Wales for the requirement.

7.3.3 From £25,001 to £250,000 quotations are to be requested from a minimum of five prospective Tenderers with Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) accreditation and registered and verified on Constructionline, unless any grant conditions dictate otherwise. Where the minimum number of Tenderers required through Constructionline are not available, the Corporate Procurement Unit will put an advertisement on Sell2Wales for the requirement.

7.3.4 Over £250,000 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Contract Thresholds requirements must be tendered and advertised on Sell2Wales, unless any grant funding conditions dictate otherwise

7.3.5 Above the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Contract thresholds, requirements must be tendered and advertised in the Official Journal of the EU, together with such other advertising as directed by the Corporate Procurement Manager.

7.4 Where it is considered appropriate to use additional advertising e.g. specialist requirements, they should be placed in one or more of the following :

- A local newspaper.
- Trade Journal.

7.5 Where additional advertisements have been placed as outlined in Rule 7.4 the advertisement shall:

- Specify details of the Contract into which the Council wishes to enter.
- Invite persons or bodies interested to apply for permission to tender.

- Specify a time limit of not less than 14 days within which such applications or tenders are to be received by the Council, except where legislation or funding conditions dictates a different time period. Indicate the criteria and weighting to be used to select Tenderer and award the Contract, unless this is specified in the ITT.

8. Pre-Tender Market Research And Consultation

- 8.1 The Council may conduct market consultation prior to the issue of any Tender. This may involve seeking or accepting advice from the market. This advice can be used in the planning and conducting of the procurement process as long as it does not distort competition or violate the principles of non-discrimination and transparency.

9. Procurement By Consultants

- 9.1 Where the Council uses consultants to act on its behalf in relation to any procurement, then the Chief Officer shall ensure that the consultants carry out any procurement in accordance with these Contract Procedure Rules.
- 9.2 All decisions must be made in accordance with the Councils Scheme of Delegation.
- 9.3 No consultant shall make any decision on whether to award a Contract or who a Contract should be awarded to. The Chief Officer shall ensure that the consultant's performance in relation to procurement is in accordance with these Contract Procedure Rules and legislation of England and Wales and European Procurement Rules.
- 9.4 Where the Council uses consultants to act on its behalf in relation to any procurement the consultant must declare any potential conflict of interest that may arise to the relevant Chief Officer prior to the commencement of the procurement process or at such time that the Contractor becomes aware of such a potential conflict of interest.
- 9.5 Where the Chief Officer considers that such a conflict of interest is significant the consultant shall not be allowed to participate in the procurement process.

10. Other Procurement Procedures

- 10.1 The use of the Negotiated procedure without prior publication, Innovative Partnerships, Competitive Procedure with Negotiation and Competitive Dialogue as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, can only be used in exceptional circumstances as directed by the Chief Finance Officer and with prior consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member and the Monitoring Officer.
- 10.2 The use of Reserved, Concessionary Contracts and Dynamic Purchasing Systems may only be used following consultation and prior approval by the Corporate Procurement Manager.

11. Naming Products Sub-Contractors And Suppliers **TC "Nominated and Named Sub-Contractors" **C **1" **XE "Nominated and Named Sub-Contractors"********

- 11.1 The principle of non-discriminatory and equal treatment is undermined by the naming of products, Suppliers or sub-Contractors. Equivalentents are nearly always able to be specified and will be advertised with the wording "or equivalent" where possible.
- 11.2 Where the Council has determined that a particular type of product or provision of service will be stipulated as an essential requirement of a Contract then this must be approved by the Appropriate Chief Officer following consultation with the Corporate Procurement Manager.

12. Electronic Tendering

- 12.1 An electronic quote and tender facility now supersedes the use of paper tenders in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. All electronic quotes and tenders must be issued using a portal approved by the Corporate Procurement Manager. All relevant staff must be fully trained in the use of the system and set up to use the facility by the Corporate Procurement Manager.
- 12.2 For all quotes and tenders issued, the awarded Contract must be uploaded to the Corporate Contracts Register on the approved portal.
- 12.3 An advertisement must be placed in accordance with Rule 7. Any advert placed on sell2wales must alert prospective bidders to the requirement and the need to register on the approved etenderwales portal. The advert should state that bidders must have JAVA to access the etenderwales portal and respond electronically.
- 12.4 All correspondence between the Council and bidders must be concluded via the approved portal to maintain a defined audit trail. Under no circumstances must email correspondence outside the portal be used. Any verbal communication specific to the quote or tender must only be communicated through the relevant category specialist and must be confirmed via the portal. All clarification questions must be broadcast to all prospective bidders, where applicable i.e. not commercially sensitive.
- 12.5 The requirements for the submissions of bids must be set out in the Invitation to Tender (ITT) document issued to bidders via the portal. This will specify the return date and time, which will normally be 12 noon on the agreed date. The time and date when bidders upload their completed documents onto the system is recorded and forms part of an audit record.
- 12.6 Any late bids submitted will be recorded by the system and must be disqualified. A report will be required from the system administrator of the portal that there has been no system malfunction if a bidder challenges the disqualification.

12.7 Tenders must be opened electronically in accordance with Rule 14

13. Submission And Custody Of Tenders And Quotations

13.1 Where tenders are invited in accordance with these Contract Procedure Rules or otherwise as determined by the Appropriate Body, the requirements for submission of tenders shall be set out in the invitation to tender document.

13.2 Electronic tenders and quotes are held in the approved portal and are inaccessible until the specified closing date and time.

14. Opening Of Electronic Tenders

14.1 Quotations or tenders for requirements having an estimated value or amount of £5,000 and not exceeding £100,000 shall be opened via the approved portal at the same time in the presence of two officers, both designated by the Appropriate Chief Officer.

14.2 Tenders for Contracts having an estimated value or amount of £100,000 and not exceeding £1,000,000 shall be opened at the same time in the presence of two officers, one designated by the Monitoring Officer and the other by the Appropriate Chief Officer.

14.3 Tenders having an aggregated estimated value or amount exceeding £1,000,000 shall be opened at the same time in the presence of:-

- (a) Two Members comprising any of the following:
 - (i) the Mayor;
 - (ii) the Deputy Mayor;
 - (iii) the Cabinet Member for the function in respect of which Contract is to be concluded
 - (iv) the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee with responsibility for the function in respect of which the Contract is to be concluded.

If two of these Members shall be unavailable, one or two Members as the case may be may be nominated by any of the unavailable Member(s) to act in their place being any Cabinet Member(s) or the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of any committee, sub-committee, panel or other body the majority of members of which are appointed by the Council;

- (b) Two officers, one designated by the Monitoring Officer and the other by the Appropriate Chief Officer, usually an officer from Cabinet and committee and an officer from the corporate procurement team.

14.4 All tenders opened in accordance with rule 14 shall include the Technical and Commercial envelope within the approved portal

- 14.5 A record shall be kept of all tenders and quotations received through the approved portal approved by the Monitoring Officer, including any reasons for disqualification.

15. Amendment Of Tenders

- 15.1 If an error is identified before the closing date for the return of tenders, all Tenderers shall be appraised of the error and invited to adjust their tenders.
- 15.2 If an error in the tender documentation provided by the Council is identified after the closing date for the return of tenders, but prior to opening of tenders, all Tenderers shall be given details of the error and afforded the opportunity of withdrawing the offer or submitting an amended tender.
- 15.3 Except as provided in Rule 15 a tender may not be amended by the Tenderer after it has been received unless examination of it reveals errors or discrepancies which would affect the tender figure in an otherwise successful tender, in which case:
- 15.3.1 If the error is not arithmetical the Tenderer shall be given details of the error(s) and shall be given the opportunity of confirming without amendment or withdrawing the tender, or
- 15.3.2 If the error is arithmetical the Appropriate Chief Officer shall correct the error(s) provided that, apart from these genuine arithmetic error(s), no other adjustment revision or qualification is permitted.

16. Post-Tender Negotiation And Clarification

- 16.1 Where procurement is conducted pursuant to the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 through either the open, restricted, innovative partnerships or competitive dialogue procedures, no post-tender negotiations are permitted. Any negotiation in respect of the competitive procedure with negotiation must comply with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 16.2 The responsible officer may seek clarification from Tenderers where appropriate in consultation with the Corporate Procurement Manager.
- 16.2 Where procurements do not exceed the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 thresholds the Appropriate Chief Officer may authorise negotiations in exceptional circumstances, following the opening of tenders and before acceptance, subject to compliance with any legislative requirements, and only when:
- (a) Amendments have been made to any relevant specification since the invitation of tenders, which could not have been foreseen at the invitation stage, or
- (b) The volume of goods, works or services required by the Council has substantially increased or decreased since the invitation of tenders, or

- (c) Only one tender has been received, or
- (d) Tender prices exceed financial targets predetermined by the Council, the Cabinet or the appropriate Committee,
In all instances, the possibility of such negotiations must have been indicated in the invitation to tender.

16.4 Negotiations shall be conducted in a manner which treats all Tenderers equally and is non-discriminatory and transparent at all times during the procurement process, and a full record of the negotiations shall be made by the Appropriate Chief Officer which shall include the names of the officers involved, minutes of all meetings and copies of all relevant correspondence and other documents.

17. Evaluation Of Tenders

17.1 The Chief Officer shall examine tenders in accordance with predetermined evaluation criteria.

17.2 In respect of all tenders where the tender criteria is the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (which can be the lowest/highest price only where appropriate) the evaluation criteria shall as a minimum be listed in the Invitation To Tender documentation in order of importance. Any particular scoring or weighting attributable to any criteria and sub-criteria must be clearly stated. In addition, the criteria must be strictly observed and remain unchanged at all times throughout the Contract award procedure.

18. Acceptance And Award Of Tenders

18.1 A Contract shall only be awarded subject to the tender evaluation criteria specified in the invitation to tender document.

18.2 Tenders for Contracts having an estimated value exceeding £5,000,000 may be invited and accepted only by the Appropriate Body unless the power to do so has been specifically allocated or delegated to the appropriate Cabinet Member or Appropriate Chief Officer.

18.3 No tender relating to a Contract to which Sections 2 to 9 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 apply, shall be accepted without the approval of the Monitoring Officer.

18.4 Before a tender is accepted other than for the sale of goods the Appropriate Chief Officer must obtain the Chief Finance Officer's confirmation that the Tenderer's financial standing is satisfactory, unless the Tenderer has already been approved using the prequalification of the tender process.

18.5 The award of any Contract shall be in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the requirements of any other legislation including any EU public procurement directive.

- 18.6 If the award of any Contract is subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or any EU public procurement directive, then there shall be a standstill period of at least ten calendar days between the communication of the decision of the intention to award the Contract being notified to those parties who were selected to tender, or who applied to be selected to tender, and the entering into of that Contract.
- 18.7 'Standstill' letters issued as part of a tender process under EU Regulations must not be issued prior to confirmation of award in accordance with the Council's constitution.
- 18.8 Feedback to unsuccessful tenderers must be included in the standstill letters and must include the characteristics and relative advantages of the tender selected. For Contracts subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 must also be complied with.
- 18.9 Where a tender above the EU threshold has been tendered and advertised on Sell2Wales, the Council shall publish a Contract Award Notice on Sell2Wales which will also be included in the Official Journal of the EU, and as soon as possible after the decision to award and in any event no later than 30 calendar days after the date of award of the Contract.
- 18.10 All correspondence notifying evaluation outcomes must be communicated through the approved portal

19. Letters Of Intent

- 19.1 Letters of Intent shall only be used with the agreement of the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnerships and only in very exceptional circumstances.
- 19.2 Where the terms and conditions of the Contract are not fully agreed no Contractor shall be allowed on site to begin preliminary works until a full risk assessment has been carried out by the Appropriate Chief Officer as to possible implications to the Council by the Contractor being allowed to start on site before the Contract terms and conditions have been finalised.

20. Execution Of Contracts

- 20.1 Every Contract not exceeding £500,000 in amount or value shall be in writing in a form approved by the Monitoring Officer such form being the Form of Tender. However the Form of Tender should not be used in the following situations and a formal Contract must be entered into:
- (a) where the appropriate Directorate has assessed the level of risk associated with the Contract and it deems the level of risk to be high; or
- (b) where the Contract must be executed under seal.

The Form of Tender must be issued as part of the tender and must be signed and returned by the bidder. On contract award the signed Form of Tender must be issued with the award letter, signed by the Appropriate Chief Officer, or another officer authorised in writing to sign on behalf of the Appropriate Chief Officer, or by the Monitoring Officer or another officer authorised in writing by the Monitoring Officer. Both Parties are to keep a signed Form of Tender.

- 20.2 Every Contract, including frameworks which exceeds £500,000 in amount or value shall be executed under seal.
- 20.3 Contracts in writing or official orders not exceeding £100,000 in amount or value may be signed either by the Appropriate Chief Officer or by an officer in writing authorised to approve on behalf of the Appropriate Chief Officer.
- 20.4. Every Contract for Works (other than Framework Agreements) exceeding £1,000,000 shall require a Performance Bond and for Contracts below this limit the Appropriate Chief Officer shall determine the necessity for a Performance Bond based on an assessment of risk for that Contract. A Surety shall be approved by the Chief Finance Officer.
- 20.5 A risk assessment shall be conducted for all service Contracts to determine the necessity for a performance bond. The approval of the Chief Finance Officer is required where a performance bond is not deemed necessary for service Contracts in excess of £1,000,000 in value
- 20.6 Contracts not exceeding £500,000 may be signed electronically except in the following situations:
- (a) where the appropriate Directorate has assessed the level of risk associated with the Contract and it deems the level of risk to be high; or
 - (b) where the Contract must be executed under seal.

The use of electronic signature must be in accordance with the procedure set down by the Corporate Procurement Manager.

21. Assignment And Novation

21.1 Any Contract subject to potential assignment and novation must be referred to the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnerships Services at the earliest possible instance.

22. Termination Of Contracts

22.1 For any Contract, or part thereof, exceeding £100,000 in value, early termination shall be approved by the Appropriate Chief Officer in consultation with the Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services and the Chief Finance Officer and must be in accordance with the termination provisions set out in the Contract. Contracts of a lesser value may be terminated early by agreement prior

to the expiry date or in accordance with the termination provisions set out in the Contract.

23. Financial Limits

23.1 With the exception of the financial limit specified in Rule 20, which may be varied only by the Council, the financial limits specified in these Contract Procedure Rules or any of them may be varied at any time by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, but any alterations shall be reported to the next meeting of the Council.

24. Record And Document Retention And Control

24.1 A full report of all Contracts awarded should be written and kept electronically. (A checklist of what the report should contain can be found at Appendix 4 to these Contract Procedure Rules - Procurement Report – Contents Checklist.)

24.2 A full record of all documents used including the Delegated Power to invite and accept, any other internal approvals, should be scanned and uploaded into the approved portal or procurements 'o' drive against the specific Contract reference number.

24.3 All Contracts under seal i.e. Deeds (inc. Tenders) must to be retained for a minimum of 12 years after the term of the Contract has expired. Contracts under hand must be retained for a minimum of 6 years after the term of the Contract has expired, unless a longer period is required by legislation or grant conditions.

24.4 Unsuccessful tender and pre-qualifying documents which have been accepted for tender purposes will be retained for a minimum period of 2 years after the start of the Contract within the approved portal.

24.5 Any tender which is rejected or disqualified at the time of opening will be notified via the approved portal.

24.6 All Request for Quotations must be retained for a minimum period of 2 years after the term of the Contract has expired.

24.7 Where Contracts are subject to the Public Contract Regulations 2015, they must also comply with the record, document retention and control requirements of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

25. Contract Management

25.1 A Contract must not start until the Contract has been signed or sealed by both parties and dated. Directorates must allow time for this in their forward work plan.

25.2 Within ten calendar days of the start of the Contract, the directorate must add the details of the Contract onto the Corporate Contracts Register and record the following:

- (a) the works, goods or services to be provided;
- (b) the name of the Contractor,
- (c) the Contract Value;
- (d) the commencement and completion/termination dates;
- (e) any extension options

These details must be maintained and updated as and when required to do so.

25.3 The Directorate shall be the Contract manager for the Contracts for which they are responsible for up to the EU thresholds, but may authorise another officer to have day-to-day responsibility for managing the Contract. For Contracts over the EU Thresholds, the directorate must appoint a dedicated Contract manager with appropriate skills and experience.

25.4 The Contract manager is responsible for:

- (a) Managing the Contract and ensuring that it is carried out in accordance with its terms and conditions;
- (b) Monitoring the Contractor's performance and carrying out mid-Contract reviews to determine ongoing value for money;
- (c) Ensuring that the Contractor maintains the insurance policies required by the Contract;
- (d) Keeping a record of all payments, claims, monitoring, changes and certificates under the Contract;

25.5 The Contract manager must consult the Monitoring Officer for consideration of the Council's legal position:

- (a) Before any Contract is to be terminated or suspended;
- (b) In the event of a claim for payment not clearly within the terms and conditions of Contract;

26. Corporate Contracts Register

26.1 The Corporate Contracts Register is held within the approved portal and all quotations and tenders conducted must be created into a Contract. It is the responsibility of each Directorate to create and maintain their own Contracts within the portal

26.2 It is the responsibility of each Directorate to update the register following a quotation or tender process within the approved portal.

26.3 Any officer that requires training must contact the corporate procurement unit

27. Review And Amendment Of Contract Procedure Rules

27.1 The Corporate Procurement Manager shall continually review these Contract Procedure Rules and shall undertake a formal review at least every three years.

