

Appendix 2 - Transforming Huntingdonshire Procurement Service

The UK procurement landscape has been changing since 2020 with the exit from the EU and in the coming months, with the introduction of the Procurement Act 2023 that will be implemented through the Procurement Regulations 2024.

The aim of the new procurement regulation is to improve the way public procurement is regulated in order to:

- create a simpler and more flexible, commercial system that better meets our country's needs while remaining compliant with our international obligations
- open up public procurement to new entrants such as small businesses and social enterprises so that they can compete for and win more public contracts
- embed transparency throughout the commercial lifecycle so that the spending of taxpayers' money can be properly scrutinised.

Preparing Huntingdonshire District Council to meet these challenges requires the adoption of new ways of working and supporting teams across the council. Across all local authorities in the UK, procurement plays a strategic role in helping the Council, not only to buy goods and services/ Work that are fit for purpose, delivering value for money and ensuring compliance, the procurement function can also help generate efficiencies through a good planning and collaborative working. Good planning for example will help reduce tail and reactive spending and secure best value for money overall.

The current proposal sets out how to improve HDC procurement standards and prepare the Council for the implementation of the new Procurement Act by the 24 February 2025 and beyond.

Our plan is to:



We are proposing to align procurement process with the contract standing order to offer a clear guideline to stakeholders to understand the steps required to complete any procurement projects from end to end.

- Develop new and easy to use templates,
- Put in place a new filing structure,
- Standardised practice,
- Set up clear working protocols with internal stakeholders,
- Ensure visibility of workflow,
- Ensure visibility of all contracts.
- Set up a consistent approach with a clear audit trail of all contracts and how they are being awarded.

In terms of governance:

- We are proposing to set up new Procurement gateways and a Procurement Board (Officers) to be to help scrutinise and plan and achieve visible saving targets.
- **Benefit:** This will help staff are clear about what to do at each stage. Procurement board will draw expertise from all directorates.
- Help scrutinise and support colleagues, identify if the same providers, frameworks are being used by other colleagues. Share experience and increase transparency whilst improving standards.

Templates Development:

- We are proposing to develop new procurement templates that are fit for purpose and aligned to the Procurement Act 2023.
- Review and revamp all below threshold templated, develop new ones for waivers, project initiation.
- Have in place standard contracts for low and high value for recurrent goods and services

HDC Social Value framework

At the moment, HDC does not have an agreed framework for Social Value

- As part of the transformation exercise, we will be drafting HDC's Social Value Framework, guidance and evaluation methodology.
- Get Members /Senior Leadership approval for its implementation
- Deliver internal training to help directorates understand the HDC Social Value
- Ensure this becomes part of tender suite of documents