

CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS (CSO's)

Rules to be followed when buying on behalf of the Council

Document Information and Governance

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Section 1

1. Introduction

These Contract Standing Orders ('CSO's) set out how the Council manages its spending. They relate to the purchasing of all goods, works & services and ensure that prior to any expenditure Officers give proper consideration as to whether the purchase is required, and that Contracts are entered into in a fair, open and transparent way.

The purpose of these CSOs is to provide a structure for purchasing decisions and processes which ensure that the Council:

- (a) furthers its corporate objectives;
- (b) uses its resources efficiently and effectively;
- (c) obtains best value;
- (d) purchases or provides quality goods, services and works in a cost effective way;
- (e) safeguards its reputation; and
- (f) meets standards of good governance.

Officers who purchase on behalf of the Council are responsible for following these CSOs including all relevant policies and guidance detailed. Heads of Service are accountable for all procurement in their respective areas of responsibility and shall take appropriate action in the event of a breach of these CSOs .

The Procurement and Contracts Manager is responsible for ensuring the CSOs are up to date and reflect current law including any retained EU law. Any change in applicable law must be observed until the CSOs can be revised. If there is a conflict between applicable law and these CSOs then the law will take precedence.

Section 2

2. Statutory Requirements

- 2.1 These CSOs are made under section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972
- 2.2 Public procurement in the UK is regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the "PCR 2015"), which derive from the EU Public Contracts Directive 2014 – this is retained law. Accordingly, the PCR 2015 continue to apply to public procurements in the UK.
- 2.3 Where the value of the contract exceeds the relevant EU Procurement Directive threshold (threshold 3) then the Council must comply with the EU tendering requirements set out in the PCR 2015.
- 2.4 For the purpose of these CSOs, the EU threshold means the threshold set out within the Public Contract Directive as amended from time to time for public supply contracts, public works contracts and public service contracts awarded by local authorities. The applicable thresholds can be found in Annex 2.

3. Compliance

- 3.1 These CSOs apply to any transaction in which the Council acquires services, goods (supplies) or works (whether or not payment is to be made by or to the Council) including all purchase orders, concessions, and contractual arrangements entered into by the Council, except for the specific types of contracts and exemptions which are listed in clause 4 below. All Officers contracting on behalf of the Council are expected to comply with these CSOs.

- 3.2 All purchasing activity and resulting contracts made by, or on behalf of the Council must comply with:
- a) The Councils Constitution, including Financial Regulations and relevant Council policies.
 - b) The Public Contract Regulations 2015
 - c) The Public Procurement (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020
 - d) Local government Transparency Code 2015 (rule 31)
 - e) Local Government Act 1999 (Section 3; best value)
 - f) Any and all applicable statutory provisions;
- 3.3 If there is any conflict between the above, UK law takes precedence, followed by the Council's constitution, the National Procurement Policy Statement, , and any Council policies or procedures, in that order.
- 3.4 Purchase Orders must be approved and/or Contracts signed by both parties prior to any contract start date.
- 3.5 Where an Officer has deliberately disaggregated a contract to avoid a particular threshold procedure, the relevant Head of Service in collaboration with the Procurement and Contracts Manager will have the right to request the procurement to be cancelled.

4. Scope

- 4.1 These orders do not apply to the following items, which are managed by separate policies:

Type of Contract	Policy / Law which covers Contracts out of scope
Contracts for the acquisition or lease of land and/or real estate	In accordance with the local government act 1972, Housing Act 1985 or any related acts or authorities. Please see CSO 20
Contracts for permanent or fixed term employment	HR / Recruitment Policies
Awarding Grants	Each grant will be governed by its own funding procedures. These will be made available to bidders upon request. CIL Grant Funding – LINK
Where the contract relates to a financing transaction	Not subject to competition due to their nature
Works orders placed with statutory undertakers	Not subject to competition due to their nature
Procurements that have been jointly procured by another local authority, public sector consortium or collaboration of which the Council is a party but not the Lead Authority.	The procurement of Contracts of this nature will be governed by the Constitution of the Contracting/lead authority Internal contract sign-off thresholds will still apply; please see Section 5 – Procurement Thresholds and Procedures
Orders for goods and services placed against an established Framework that was subject to these CSO's during its set-up.	The establishment of the call-off Contract or Framework Agreement would have been governed by the CSO's in the first instance, as such any call offs / mini competitions ran under

	such agreement will have already complied with these CSO's.
Orders for goods, works and services placed against an established public sectors accessible framework	Frameworks that have been established and created for public sector use would have been governed by the PCR's.
Where goods, services or works are awarded because of a declared emergency and authorised by the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration, Head of Policy and Corporate Resources and Applied Resilience; Emergency Planning Consultants. Contracts awarded must not exceed the estimated period of recovery	Constitution – Part 4; Financial Planning – General 6.10 - Expenditure may be authorised in an emergency by the Chief Finance Officer with the agreement of the Chairman of the relevant Committee and shall be reported to the next meeting of that Committee. This procedure will only be adopted if the emergency does not provide sufficient time to follow the procedure set-out at 6.25.

4.2 All other Contracts made by or on behalf of the Council must comply with these CSOs unless there is an Exemption (CSO 20) or Waiver (CSO 21).

5. Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 All officers have a duty to report breaches of the CSOs to the Chief Finance Officer or to the Monitoring Officer. Compliance with these CSOs is also subject to internal and external audit.

5.2 In considering how best to purchase works, goods and services, an officer with responsibility for purchasing (procuring officer) shall take into account wider contractual delivery opportunities and purchasing methods such as setting up or letting under framework agreements, joint procurements with other public authorities, e-procurement methods and the availability of local authority trading and charging powers under the Local Government Act 2003 and the Localism Act 2011.

5.3 The Procurement and Contracts Manager / Officer is responsible for:

- a) Providing expert market knowledge ensuring compliance and delivering best value
- b) Ensuring Officers have the correct tools, information and guidance to deliver a compliant, cost effective and good quality contracts.
- c) Offering expert advice to Officers procuring within Thresholds 1 & 2.
- d) Taking a commercial lead on all Procurements within threshold 3.
- e) Updating and delivering the Procurement Strategy
- f) Ensuring transparency by:
 - a. Maintaining and publishing the Contract Register
 - b. Reviewing waiver submissions and maintaining Waiver log
 - c. Reviewing spend across all categories quarterly
- g) Embedding social value and sustainable procurement appropriately across Council expenditure
- h) Delivering procurement and contracts training to Officers
- i) Ensuring suppliers are aware of, and follow, the Council's '*How to do business with us*' when bidding.
- j) Manage e-sourcing platform

- k) Updating the internal and external web pages to ensure Officers, Suppliers and residents are kept informed.

5.5 Officers purchasing on behalf of the Council are responsible for:

- a) Any contract in excess of £5,000 should be reported to the Procurement Officer so that the Contract Register can be updated and published accordingly.
- b) Complying with these CSOs and all relevant policies;
- c) Ensuring there is adequate budget available for any purchase prior to approaching the market for quotes;
- d) For purchases within threshold 1, Purchase Orders (PO) must be approved **before** the requirements are delivered to the Council.
- e) For purchases within threshold 2 & 3, Officers must ensure the contract is signed by both parties **before** raising a PO.
- f) For Contracts within threshold 2 and 3, Officers must ensure they have properly engaged with legal services and an appropriate level contract is to be used.
- g) Ensure specifications accurately define the requirements.
- h) Consideration is given to equality and diversity as well as social value implications.
- i) Ensuring that HR is consulted, and the appropriate approval obtained for requirements of temporary workers or consultants outside any agreed corporate contract.
- j) Contracts are to be managed within Services, either by a dedicated Contract Manager or by a nominated officer.

6. Purchase Orders

6.1 Purchase Orders (PO) should be raised within the Council's Purchasing system.

6.2 Invoices must be received electronically clearly highlighted.

6.3 Invoices should be emailed to creditors@epsom-ewell.gov.uk for payment. To ensure prompt payment and to satisfy audit requirements, your email should include:

- the supplier name and invoice number in the subject heading
- the invoice as an attachment
- your confirmation that the invoice is authorised for payment (eg "I authorise the attached invoice for payment")
- a correct purchase order number

6.4 Any invoice received by the Council's Creditors that cannot be matched to a purchase order will be referred back to the budget manager, unless it falls under one of the following exemptions from purchase orders:

1. Supplies of utility services
2. Periodical payments (such as rates or rents)
3. Purchase card transactions
4. Transport and Facilities Management contracts
5. Treasury management transactions
6. Refunds and grants
7. Statutory payments to other government organisations
8. Theatre performances
9. Any order for works, goods or services with a value less than £150

7. Purchasing Cards

- 7.1 The Council makes use of Purchase Cards. These are effectively credit cards which are used to make small purchases in a wide range of situations. Officers who are supplied with a purchasing card must refer to the '*Purchasing Card User Guide*' for further information.
- 7.2 Email copies of purchase card logs remain the preferred route wherever possible. However, we will still accept paper copies where it is impractical to provide electronically by email, for example because there is a high volume of receipts required as evidence for purchases.

8. Temporary Staff, Consultants and Professional Services

- 8.1 Procurement works closely with HR to manage the Council's temporary agency workforce needs. Prior to a permanent or fixed term appointment the appropriate REC01 must be completed (except in Operational Services).
- 8.2 The Council has a contract for the provision of temporary agency staff via a neutral-vendor service supplier. All temporary agency workforce must be sourced via this Contract in the first instance.
- 8.3 Where it is not possible to use this contract, a Head of Service may use an alternative "off contract" agency. This appointment must be agreed in advance with the Head of HR & OD, the role is considered specialist and a waiver completed. This ensures complete transparency of off-contract temporary appointments.
- 8.4 Where the role is considered specialist a contract must be agreed with the Legal Team.
- 8.5 Temporary agency staff, and other consultants or contractors, must abide by the terms of their contract with the Council and follow the Council's Code of Conduct.

9. IR35

- 9.1 IR35 relates to off-payroll working. This is where a supplier is operating and providing services to the Council via an intermediary, such as a limited company, and were it not for that arrangement, they would be considered an employee and within IR35.
- 9.2 It is the responsibility of the Council to determine if IR35 applies or not and any unpaid tax can be claimed back if the Council makes the decision wrong.
- 9.3 If IR35 does apply the Council (or fee payer if via an agency) would be responsible for making employment tax and National Insurance deductions.
- 9.4 Further IR35 advice can be found via the link within Annex 3 or by contacting the HR Team.

10.Grants

- 10.1 The making of grants is not subject to these Orders. You must follow the rules and guidance for grant-making that are available internally for each individual grant. Officers are reminded to take into account the legal requirements concerning subsidy control.

11.Social Value

- 11.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into force on 31st January 2012. The act requires the Public Sector to consider how they can use contracts to enhance the wider wellbeing of the community. This complements existing procurement legislation and reinforces social value as part of the value for money considerations.

- 11.2 Social Value (SV) can be achieved by generating benefits to society, the economy and positive impacts to the environment and local communities via our external spend. It can be created in many ways and has wide ranging benefits.
- 11.3 The Social Value Act 2012 currently applies only to service contracts over the EU threshold (£213,477) but shall be considered in all procurements where applicable. Social value forms part of a bidders commitments at tender stage and should be tailored to the subject nature of the contract being awarded.
- 11.4 It is the Contract Managers responsibility to ensure SV is being delivered during the life of the contract.

12.Modern Slavery

- 12.1 The Modern Slavery Act 2015 ("MSA") is a UK act of Parliament designed to tackle slavery and human trafficking through the consolidation of previous legislation and the introduction of new measures. Specifically, it introduces new requirements for organisations in regards to their business and supply chains – and creates a criminal offence.
- 12.2 Modern Slavery is defined as slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, human trafficking and exploitation was put in place.
- 12.3 For procurements within threshold 3, the Council will use the mandatory standard supplier questionnaire (SSQ) on all its procurements which includes a section on the supplier's approach to the Modern Slavery Act, slavery and human trafficking in the supply chain.

13.Sustainable Procurement

- 13.1 Sustainable procurement, put simply, is the process by which an organisation meets their purchasing needs in a way that achieves value for money, on a whole life basis, whilst benefitting the organisation, its customers, the wider society and economy and protecting the environment.
- 13.2 The Council seeks to address the environmental impact of its activities. To help do this, suppliers bidding for contract opportunities will be asked, where appropriate, to demonstrate their awareness of relevant environmental issues through their own policies.
- 13.3 Typically sustainable procurement should follow the following principles:
- Sustainable procurement is the act of adopting social, economic and environmental factors alongside the typical price and quality considerations into the organisations handling of procurement processes and procedures.
 - Sustainable procurement isn't just about buying 'green' products. It includes planning ahead to manage demand, effective ongoing contract management and dealing with supply chain risks and impacts.
 - Incorporating sustainable procurement into our future contracts in order to facilitate a reduction in our Scope 3 (supply chain emissions).
- 13.4 Officers purchasing on behalf of the Council should be aware of the Councils Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) which incorporates single use plastic policy and the Biodiversity Action Plan. The impact of climate change should be built into procurements where appropriate.

14. Reverse charge of VAT

- 14.1 The VAT reverse charge for construction came into effect on 1 March 2021. The reverse charge applies to any services related to the construction of buildings and the materials, but not to professionals' fees like those of architects, surveyors, or consultants. A reverse charge means that the recipient will be accountable for the VAT rather than the supplier.

15. Accessibility Standards

- 15.1 In 2018 the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 came into effect. This Act builds upon existing obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- 15.2 Any procurement that will result in a public facing website where the Council or a supplier on its behalf is presenting information relating to the Council or services the Council offer, must comply with the Act and Regulations and must meet the new accessibility standards.
- 15.3 Officers must ensure that the Councils Communications Teams advice is sought.

Transparency

16. Transparency, Publication of spend, Opportunities and Awards

- 16.1 The Council is committed to displaying information that explains how its money is spent. The Local Government Transparency Code 2015 requires Local Authorities to publish any expenditure that exceeds £500 and all Contracts over £5,000. This can be found on the Councils public website.
- 16.2 Under regulations 106, 108, 110 and 112 of the PCR's, the Council has a statutory obligation to advertise Contract awards over £25,000 on Contracts Finder.
- 16.3 The Councils e-Sourcing Portal will automatically publish contract and award notices. For procurements over £25,000 (but not advertised through the Councils e-Sourcing platform) must be completed and published directly on the Contracts Finder website by the Procurement and Contracts Officer.
- 16.4 In January 2021, Find a Tender service (FTS) was launched to replace the OJEU Contracts notices and awards system. The Councils e-Sourcing Portal automatically publishes opportunities on FTS.
- 16.5 The Council has a further obligation to advertise contract opportunities and awards within Threshold 3 on FTS.

17. e-tendering

- 17.1 All procurements within threshold 2 and 3 must be advertised via the Councils eSourcing platform. This ensures that the tender opportunity is advertised to the market in a fair and auditable way.
- 17.2 The eSourcing platform will automatically publish contract opportunity and award notices to Contracts Finder and Find A Tender Service (FTS) ensuring the procurement exercise remains compliant.
- 17.3 Procurements using a public sector accessible framework do not require a Contracts Finder opportunity notice. Award notices will still need to be published using the Contracts Finder and Find a Tender Service websites.
- 17.4 eSourcing set-up, passwords, support and training can be sought from the Procurement and Contracts Officer.

18. Contract Register

- 18.1 In line with the Transparency Code 2015, the Councils has a statutory obligation to publish any spend over £500 and Contracts over £5,000 on its website.

- 18.2 Officers who award contracts over £5,000 must inform the Procurement and Contracts Manager / Officer of each contract for the Contract Register to be updated.
- 18.3 Contract managers / owners have the responsibility to update the contract register with current and new contracts.
- 18.4 The Contract Register is published every 3-months

19. Freedom of Information

- 19.1 In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, the Council has an obligation to publish specific information and to provide information to members of the public upon request. That is subject to certain disclosure exemptions such as where confidential or commercially sensitive information may be withheld.

20. Exemptions

- 20.1 These CSOs apply to all procurement undertaken by the Council unless the procurement is within Thresholds 1 & 2 and falls within one of the following categories:
- a) Emergency purchases. Emergency purchases are to be made by departments only when normal functions and operations of the Council when property, equipment, or life are endangered through unexpected circumstances and materials, services, etc., and are needed immediately. Sufficient funds must be available and signed off by the Budget Holder.
 - b) Call offs from public sector accessible frameworks which have been tendered; Procuring Officers must still complete a Quick-Quote or RFQ Procurement Report.
 - c) An extension to an existing Contract which contains express provision as to the extension of that Contract and provided those conditions are followed. The relevant Head of Service has the authority to agree to and sign-off the extension.
 - d) the Council is acting as an agent for another organisation and is acting in accordance with that organisation's CSOs;
 - e) employment contracts;
 - f) disposal or acquisition of land
 - g) legal advice, legal services and expert witnesses
 - h) There is a variation (additional work) to an existing Contract where the variation is outside the scope of the Contract but it would be inappropriate to offer the additional work to competition. For example, Consultants when their area of expertise or existing knowledge would preclude using another.

21. Waivers

- 21.1 The requirement for the Council to conduct a competitive procurement process for contracts within Thresholds 1 & 2 of these CSO's may be waived in exceptional circumstances by the following officers:
- 1. Director of Corporate Resources or Head of Policy and Corporate Resources; and
 - 2. Chief Finance Officer or Chief Accountant

- 21.3 A waiver cannot be granted for procurements in threshold 3 as it would contravene the PCR's 2015.
- 21.4 Officers must obtain approval for a Waiver by completing the 'Waiver Request Form' documenting the reason for which the waiver is sought, including justification and risk.
- 21.5 Waiver Request Forms must be completed in full and accurately describe the services needed. Forms not completed satisfactorily will be returned to the author.
- 21.6 All applications for waivers of these Orders must be submitted to the Procurement and Contracts Officer who will seek approval from Officers listed in 21.1.
- 21.7 Applications for waivers which are as a result of poor contract planning will rarely be considered genuinely exceptional.
- 21.8 The Procurement and Contracts Officer must maintain a log of all waivers.

Section 3

22. Permission to tender

- 22.1 For thresholds 1 and 2, Heads of Service have the authority to commence a tendering process, via email. Budget must be available within the service or finance approval must be sought in advance of authority to commence
- 22.2 For procurements in threshold 3, Heads of Service have the authority to commence a tendering process provided a business case for the procurement has been approved which includes financial provision and approval.
- 22.3 Where the value of the contract is in excess of £750,000, the procurement must be approved by the relevant committee prior to the commencement of the procurement process.
- 22.4 For procurements within threshold 2 & 3 Officers must complete section A of the procurement report. This sets out budget availability, stakeholder engagement and options appraisals
- 22.5 Existing public sector frameworks have been explored and utilised where possible for all three thresholds.

23. Contract Value Calculation

- 23.1 Prior to commencing a procurement exercise Officers must estimate the aggregate value; this will determine which threshold the procurement falls under.
- 23.2 The 'Contract Value' means the estimated total aggregated value payable in pounds sterling over life of the Contract, including any extensions. This is exclusive of Value Added Tax (VAT). In respect of any consortium or joint contract, the Contract value must be the aggregate of each participating authority's requirements in estimating the contract value.
- 23.3 Contracts must not be purposefully underestimated or disaggregated into two or more separate contracts with the intention of avoiding the application of these Orders or the PCR's.
- 23.4 Spend with suppliers will be monitored regularly to ensure contracts are not being disproportionately awarded and exceed thresholds.

- 23.5 In the case of Framework Agreements or Dynamic Purchasing Systems, the contract value must be calculated to include the total estimated value, net of VAT, of all the contracts envisaged to be awarded for the total term of the Framework Agreement or the Dynamic Purchasing System.

24 Declaration of Interest

- 24.1 At any point during the procurement process, if an Officer or evaluator becomes aware that he has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a Contract which the Council has entered into, or proposes to enter into, their interest must be recorded within the Procurement Report. This includes interests by their close associates or family members. Failure to declare an interest, of which the officer is aware, is a disciplinary offence.

25. Contract Management

- 25.1 It is the procuring officer's responsibility to ensure that there is a robust Contract Management plan in place that is proportionate to the scale and scope of the Contract. This should include, but is not limited to:
- a) Accountability, roles and responsibility,
 - b) Strong government procedures
 - c) Measure and report on performance and use KPIs and data efficiently to incentivise good performance;
 - d) Drive continuous improvement, value for money and capture innovation
 - e) Adopt and encourage mature commercial behaviours;
- 25.2 Any extensions or variations to a Contract may only be made in accordance with the Contract and in line with advice from legal services and PCRs.
- 25.3 The Councils Contract Manager should be contacted for further advice and support

SECTION 4

26. Form of Contract

- 26.1 Contract award notification shall be issued;
- a) By the Officer leading the procurement only
 - b) When the evaluation has been completed and Procurement report signed off.
- 26.2 For Procurements in thresholds 2 & 3, Legal Services should be instructed using the Legal Instruction Form at the Officers earliest opportunity. By not doing so, your Project may be delayed.
- 26.3 All Contracts shall:
- a) specify the goods, materials or services to be supplied and/or works to be undertaken, price to be paid, payment terms and conditions, details of any discounts or penalties, the period of the Contract and any other terms and conditions that may be agreed;
 - b) provide for the payment of liquidated damages where they are appropriate;
 - c) contain details of any security that is required by the Council; and
 - d) prohibit the Contractor from sub-Contracting or assigning all or any part of the Contract

without the express consent of the Council.

e) Contain a copy of the tender submission;

f) be governed by English law;

g) impose requirements to hold and maintain the specified insurance cover in accordance with the provisions of clause 29.2, where appropriate;

h) impose requirements to comply with equalities and health and safety legislation, where appropriate;

i) impose requirements to comply with the Council's health and safety policy, where appropriate;

j) give the Council the right to cancel the Contract, and recover from the contractor the amount of any loss resulting from such cancellation, if the contractor, or any person acting on their behalf, shall have, in relation to the Contract or any other Contract with the Council:

(i) offered or given, directly or indirectly, any gift or consideration of any kind to any person as an inducement to do or forbear from doing anything, or as a reward for doing or forbearing from doing anything; or

(ii) committed any offence under the Bribery Act 2010, or given or offered any fee or reward receipt of which is contrary to section 117(2) of the Local Government Act 1972;

k) set out a contractual protocol for dealing with Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 information requests and, where applicable, obligations under data protection legislation, and enabling compliance with the requirements of any applicable information publication scheme (including the Local Government Transparency Code 2015);

l) reserve rights of audit to the Council where the contractor makes payments to, or collects income on behalf of, the Council;

26.4 Every Contract in excess of £100,000 must contain a comprehensive Business Continuity plan.

26.5 Every contract which exceeds £25,000 in value or amount and is for the provision of works, supplies or services other than at one time shall provide for adequate redress in the event of default by the contractor as agreed by the Chief Legal Officer.

26.6 Every contract over £75,000 shall:

(i) provide for liquidated damages to be paid by the contractor where the terms of the contract are not duly performed if financial loss is likely to arise from delay in performing the contract; and

(ii) provide that where the cost of purchasing other goods, materials or services exceed the amount which would have been payable to the contractor, this amount shall be recoverable from the contractor.

26.7 For threshold 3 contracts the right to terminate the contract where:

(i) the contract has been subject to a substantial modification which would have required a new procurement procedure under regulation 72 Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR) or regulation 43 Concession Contract Regulations 2016 (CCR);

- (ii) the contractor has, at the time of the contract award, been in one of the situations referred to in regulation 57 PCR 2015 or regulation 38 CCR 2016 (mandatory exclusions) and should have been excluded from the procurement procedure; and
- (iii) a UK Court has declared that the contract should not have been awarded to the contractor in view of a serious breach of procurement law.

27. Sealing and Signing of contracts

- 27.1 Subject to where Committee approval is required in accordance with the Financial Regulations or Terms of Reference of the relevant Committee, contracts within Threshold 1 shall be the subject of a Purchase Order, which can be approved in accordance with the Financial Regulations. If a Purchase Order is not permitted for the relevant contract a formal Contract shall take account of an appropriate level of legal advice. Heads of Service are permitted to sign the Contract.
- 27.2 Contracts within Threshold 2 and 3 shall be the subject of a formal written Contract agreed in accordance with Annex 5-3 to the Constitution and under Seal if required by clause 27.3.
- 27.3 Every contract valued at £750,000 or more shall be sealed with the common seal of the Council provided the award decision has been approved by the relevant committee or officer in accordance with the terms of the constitution.
- 27.4 For all contracts under £750,000 the awarding officer may sign the contract on behalf of the Council provided the award decision has been approved by the relevant committee or officer in accordance with the terms of the constitution

28. Novation

- 28.1 Novation refers to where one of the contracting parties in the original contract is replaced by an entirely new party that assumes the rights and obligations of the original party.
- 28.2 Novation is not permitted without the express consent of the Head of Service and Legal Services.

29. Financial Security

- 29.1 Adequate financial security and/or a performance bond must be required for all Contracts within Threshold 3.
- 29.2 The Council request the minimum financial cover:
 - a) Employers Liability Insurance: £5,000,000
 - b) Public Liability Insurance: £10,000,000
 - c) Professional Indemnity Insurance: £1,000,000
 - d) Product Liability Insurance: Should be proportionate to the product being purchased.
- 29.3 Any variation from 30.2 must be agreed with the Head of Policy and Corporate Resources.

30. Economic and Financial Standing

- 30.1 The Councils will examine and maintain the credit report of all suppliers to gauge it's economic and financial status.

Section 5

31. Disposal of Land and Property

- 31.1 All land and property which is considered to be surplus to the Council's service requirements must be notified to the Director of Environment, Housing & Regeneration who will be responsible for the disposal or other reallocation of such land and property in accordance with the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

32. Disposal of Other Council Assets

- 32.1 Assets may be declared as being surplus to requirements by a Head of Service who shall assess the value of the assets using such expert assistance as they consider necessary and to dispose of the asset in accordance with this CSO.
- 32.2 The value of an asset shall be the estimated price for which the asset might reasonably be expected to be sold to a willing purchaser in the open market. Similar assets declared surplus to requirements at or about the same time shall be aggregated in value.
- 32.3 Assets having no realisable value or where the costs of disposal is likely to exceed the price received may be disposed of as waste provided that the assets shall be recycled wherever reasonably practical and financially viable.
- 32.4 Assets with a value of £10,000 or less may be sold for the best price possible.
- 32.5 Such assets may be advertised on internet based marketplaces (such as EBay). Where such sites are used, the Chief Finance Officer will nominate a single Council officer to be responsible for the disposal of assets using this method.
- 32.6 In the case of assets valued above £10,000, disposal shall be carried out by inviting bids for the assets through the open procedure or auction.
- 32.7 Council officers or members are not permitted to purchase any Council assets.
- 32.8 Assets which require secure disposal such as computers, tablets, mobile telephones and any other equipment containing personal or confidential material must be disposed of only to an approved contractor. The relevant Head of Service in the case of IT equipment, the Head of ICT, must ensure that the personal information or confidential material is destroyed and documentation confirming this must be obtained from the contractor and retained by the Council.
- 32.9 Where items have to be written off and disposed of the write off must be approved in accordance with the following limits:
- a) for items valued up to £10,000 the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer;
 - b) for items valued between £10,000 and £20,000, Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the relevant committee chairman; and
 - c) for items valued over £20,000 the relevant committee.

33. Work for Third Parties

- 33.1 The Director of Corporate Services or Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration within their respective services must approve the contractual

arrangements for any work carried out by the Council for third parties or external bodies.

34. Partnerships

- 34.1 Partnerships with other local, public, private, voluntary and community sector organisations will be entered into subject to the approval of the relevant committee who shall agree:
- a) the terms of reference; and
 - b) where appropriate, a scheme of delegation to officers to operate within the partnership.
- 34.2 Unless specifically agreed by the relevant committee, partnership arrangements shall only be entered into in accordance with the provisions of these CSOs.
- 34.3 The heads of terms for all partnership arrangements shall be approved by the relevant committee and full terms and conditions by the relevant committee and the Director of Corporate Services or Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration within their respective services.
- 34.4 The Director of Corporate Services or Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration within their respective services shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate arrangements for governance are set up within each partnership entered into. Such arrangements shall include provisions for arranging contracts with external bodies.

35. Review of these Contract Standing Orders

These Contract Standing Orders shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Save in the case of revisions to thresholds or otherwise arising out of a change in the law, any changes to these Contract Standing Orders shall be approved and adopted by the Council. Revisions to thresholds or otherwise arising out of a change in the law shall be dealt with by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer

36. Council Members and Contracts

- 36.1 No member shall have authority to enter into any contract on behalf of the Council.
- 36.2 No member shall have authority to issue any instruction or variation to a contractor of the Council.

Section 6 – Procurement Thresholds and Procedures

This Table provides a quick checklist and guidance for the necessary governance arrangements for authorisations when entering into contracts:

Contract Standing Orders - Procedures for Procurement - minimum requirements											
	Aggregate Value including extensions £	Advertising required	Contract Award notice required	Procurement method	Receipt of quotes	Who is authorised to carry out Procurement	Timescales	Contract Type	Who must approve the contract award	Who signs the contract on the Councils behalf	Audit trail and documentation
Threshold 1	£0-£24,999 Quick Quote (QQ)	No	No	Three (3) quotes	Email	Service Officer	N/A	Purchase Order	Budget holder	Head of Service	Completed QQ Procurement Report. To be stored within team drives
Threshold 2	£25,000 to £213,477 Request for Quotation (RFQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts Finder* 	Yes	Minimum of three (3) quotes*	e-Sourcing platform	Service Officer	Proportionate the value and complexity of tender	EEBC Standard / JCT /Framework	Head of Service	As per Annex 5-3 of the Constitution – <u>If under seal</u> = CEO, Directors or Head of Legal <u>If under hand</u> = CEO, Directors or Head of Service	Completed RFQ Procurement Report. To be stored within team drives
Threshold 3	Over £213,477 Invitation to Tender (ITT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts Finder Find A Tender Service 	Yes	Goods & Services – Full tender Works – competitive quotation**	e-Sourcing platform	Procurement and Contracts Manager / Officer	PCR 2015 Timescales	Bespoke EEBC / JCT /Framework call-off agreement	Head of Service Head of Finance Head of Legal & Appropriate Committee	<u>Under £750k</u> - As per Annex 5-3 of the Constitution <u>Over £750K</u> – Sealed as a Deed, as per Annex 5-3 of the Constitution	Completed ITT Procurement Report. To be stored within eSourcing portal.

If any Officer identified within the 'who must approve the contract' table above is unavailable, the Director of Corporate Services or Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration within their respective area can act under delegated authority, in accordance with the scheme of delegation in Appendix 2.

* RFQ (open) and advertised to the entire market. Contracts Finder opportunity and award notice to be published via eSourcing portal

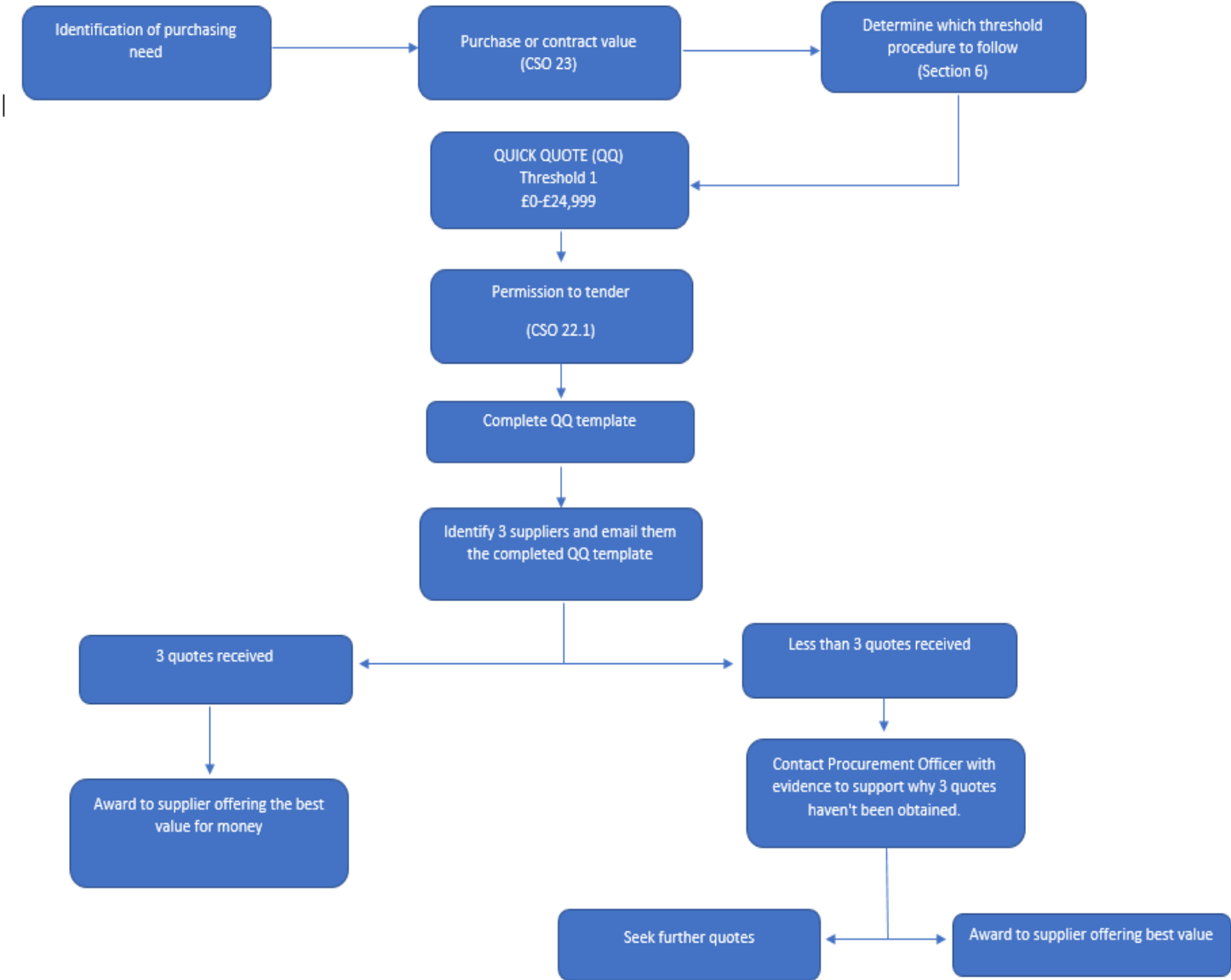
RFQ (closed) – Where the opportunity is only shared with a select number of suppliers. Only a Contracts Find award notice is required to be published (within 30-days of contract award) via the Contracts Finder website.

**Works up to threshold:

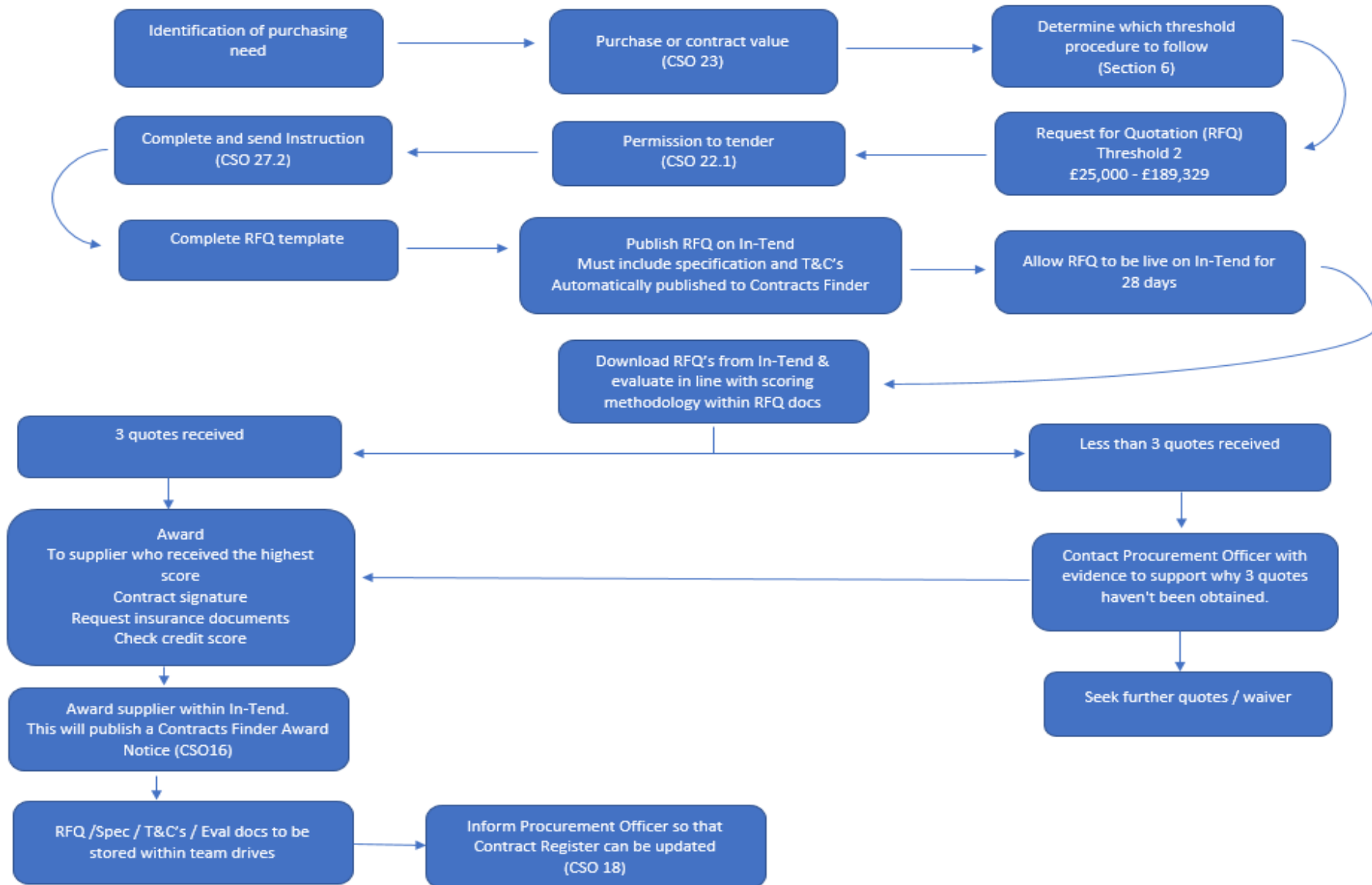
- Works under threshold: should follow threshold 2 route.
- Works over threshold: Full tender

Annex 1 – Officers Process Guide

- Quick Quote (QQ)



Request for Quotation (RFQ)



Annex 2 – EU Procurement Directive threshold

The financial thresholds are inclusive of VAT and amended, generally every 2 years and the most up to date can be found here: <https://www.ojeu.eu/thresholds.aspx>

Public Contract Regulations 2015		
Supplies and Services		
	All bodies	£213,477
Works (including subsidised Works Contracts)		
	All Bodies	£5,336,937
The Utilities Contract Regulations		
Supplies and Services		
	All Sectors	£426,955
Works		
	All Sectors	£5,336,937
The Concession Regulations		
	Concession Regulations	£5,336,937

Annex 3 – Procurement in the UK regulations:

1. [Public Contracts Regulations 2015](#)
2. [The Utilities Contract Regulations 2016](#)
3. [The Concession Contracts Regulations 2016](#)
4. [The Public Services \(social value\) Act 2012](#)
5. [The Public Procurement \(Amendment etc.\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
6. [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)
7. [Social Value Act 2012](#)
8. [Local government Transparency Code 2015](#)
9. [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)
10. [IR35 Guidance](#)
11. [Local Government Act 1999 \(Section 3; best value\)](#)