

## REPORT TO CABINET

13 NOVEMBER 2025

## REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

### CABINET DECISION

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport –  
Councillor Paul Rowling

# PROCUREMENT PLAN / HIGHER VALUE CONTRACTS

## Summary

This report seeks approval from Cabinet for the award of three planned higher value contracts where the value exceeds the limit on officer delegated authority and which are either funded within the approved MTFP/ Capital Programme or are subject to a bid for external funding.

## Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To enable Cabinet to exercise its strategic oversight of higher value planned procurement projects, in accordance with the constitution.

## Recommendations

That Cabinet

1. approves the contracts listed in Annex 1;
2. gives authority to the relevant Director or Assistant Director to make the specific contract award decision and any subsequent contract variation, annual inflationary uplifts (where allowed in the contract terms and conditions) and extension decision in accordance with the delegations listed in Annex 1;

## Detail

1. The constitution defines a range of decisions that require a specific Cabinet approval, the financial threshold for which is set at a level of £500k or more. Annex 1 lists contracts that exceeds the financial threshold and have not otherwise been delegated to officers.

## Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

3. N/A

## Corporate Parenting Implications

4. **N/A**

**Financial Implications**

5. The report includes higher value contracts expected to be awarded in the 2025/26 financial year. The expenditure committed as a result of these tenders/ quotes is planned and remains within the Council's approved budget/MTFP or is subject to a bid for external funding which will ensure that at the point of contract award funds are available within the MTFP.

**Legal Implications**

6. Notwithstanding Cabinet approval it remains the responsibility of officers to ensure that the correct processes within Contract Procedure Rules have been followed and that where applicable the Procurement Act 2023 or the Provider Selection Regime introduced by the Health and Care Bill (2022) is complied with.
7. Where the value of goods, services or works exceeds the threshold at which the procurement process must comply with the Procurement Act 2023, either a tender exercise or the use of a suitable framework agreement will comply with the Regulations.

**Risk Assessment**

8. There are several risks relating to procurement. Firstly, the Council spends a considerable amount of public money on goods, services and works. Having effective Contract Procedure Rules and ensuring compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 can help mitigate the risk of accusations of corruption and help demonstrate value for money and transparency. Secondly, effective tender/ quote processes and contract management also reduce the risk of poor supplier selection and subsequent performance which can impact service delivery.

**Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/ Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)**

9. **N/A**

**Background Papers**

10. None

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**Annex 1.**

**Contract Title: Specialist Family and Carers Support Service**

1. The Council will carry out a tender process to appoint a suitable provider to deliver a Specialist Family and Carer Support Service to support the family and carers of individuals with substance misuse.
2. The new contract will commence from 01.04.2026 for a period of 2 years with 1 x 24 month and 1 x 12 month possible extensions.
3. The current annual spend is circa £139k pa.

**Key Decision:** No

**Funding within MTFP:** Yes

**Delegated Officer:** Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

**Checks and Balances:** In consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include finance and procurement.

**Contract Title: Stockton & Hartlepool Employment Connections – Individual Placement and Support Service**

1. The Council will carry out a tender process to appoint a suitable provider to deliver an Individual Placement & Support Service to support people in structured treatment for substance misuse into employment. The contract will be used by both Stockton and Hartlepool Councils.
2. The new contract will commence from 01.04.2026 for a period of 1 year with 4 x 12 months possible extensions subject to funding.
3. The current annual spend for both Stockton and Hartlepool is circa £256k pa.

**Key Decision:** No

**Funding within MTFP:** Yes

**Delegated Officer:** Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

**Checks and Balances:** In consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include finance and procurement.

**Contract Title: Substance Misuse Treatment and Referral Pathway Secondary Care**

1. The Council will carry out a direct award process under Provider Selection Regime Option A to appoint North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust to deliver a support and treatment (including Opioid Substitution Therapy) for patients experiencing substance misuse, as well as reduce stigma, provide training for secondary care teams, and improve discharge/ referral pathways between secondary care (NTHFT) and our commissioned community-based substance misuse service.
2. The new contract will commence from 01.04.2026 for a period of 1 year with 4 x 12 months possible extensions subject to funding.
3. The current annual spend is circa £104k pa.

**Key Decision:** No

**Funding within MTFP:** Yes

**Delegated Officer:** Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing

**Checks and Balances:** In consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include finance and procurement.

