

REPORT TO CABINET

11 DECEMBER 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. Accelerating affordable housing delivery (A quality home for all) Cabinet Report 12 June 2025.

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Annex 1.

| Contract Title: Affordable Housing Grant Scheme | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council will carry out an appropriate procurement process to appoint a suitable Registered Provider(s) to grant funding to increase the number of affordable homes throughout the Borough via the Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Housing Grant Scheme. The grant will be funded by section 106 funding. 2. The Grant can be used for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the purchase of (predominately) smaller residential properties (1-bedroom and 2-bedroom properties) and/or b) bringing existing housing back into use (that meets the priority needs of the Council) that is currently not considered viable to return to occupation. <p>The grant enacts the recommendations included in the Accelerating affordable housing delivery (A quality home for all) Cabinet Report 12 June 2025.</p> <p>If there are any remaining funds that haven't been granted to Registered Providers, the Council will explore alternative options including direct purchase</p> 3. The new grant(s) will commence immediately when a partner (recipient) has been appointed and continue to 04.03.2027 4. The total Grant fund is £1,340,000. | |
| 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. | |