

REPORT TO CABINET

16 JULY 2026

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

**Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources and Regeneration –
(Councillor Paul Rowling)**

PROCUREMENT PLAN/ HIGHER VALUE CONTRACTS

Summary

This report seeks approval from Cabinet for the award of 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 contract 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.
2. Further Procurement Plan/ Higher Value Contracts Reports will be presented to Cabinet for approval during the year as details of new contracts needed to deliver capital schemes are developed or new revenue funded contracts are identified.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

3. N/A

Corporate Parenting Implications

4. N/A

Financial Implications

5. The report includes a higher value contracts to be awarded in the 2026/27 financial year. The expenditure committed as a result of these tenders/ quotes is planned and remains within the Council's approved budget/ MTFP/ Capital Programme 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/ Capital Programme.

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. N/A

Name of Contact Officer: Martin Skipsey

Post Title: Assistant Director Procurement & Governance

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Annex 1

Contract Title: Purchase of 6 Coach Built Buses	
Contract Purpose	
The contract is required to replace the existing fleet of coach-built buses for the Community Transport Service. The current buses are now approaching the end of their efficient and reliable service life, leading to higher maintenance costs, more frequent breakdowns, and reduced fuel efficiency.	
Contract Term	
Not applicable – purchase of vehicles.	
Contract Value	
The total price for the buses is £657,912.	
Procurement Process	
The Council has undertaken a further competition via The Procurement Partnership Limited Bus & Coach Purchase/ Passenger Transport Services (PTS) Framework Agreement. Orders will be placed upon Cabinet approval.	
Key Decision: Yes	Funding within MTFP/ Capital Programme: Yes
Delegated Officer: Ged Morton, Director of Corporate Services	
Checks and Balances: Decision in consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include Finance and Procurement. Legal for certain specified decisions.	

Contract Title: Local Authority Housing Fund Round 4	
Contract Purpose	
To appoint North Star Housing Group (Registered Housing Provider) as the Councils delivery partner. Funding will be used to support the purchase of 6 properties to delivery affordable housing.	
Contract Term	
4 year (2026/27 to 2029/30).	
Contract Value	
Up to £545,304 (max £538,500 capital and £6,804 revenue).	
Procurement Process	
The Council carried out an Expression of Interest (advertised via the NEPO portal) to seek a delivery partner, the market engagement exercise generated interest from 1 organisation – North Star Housing. It is proposed to appoint North Star given their track record of delivery in Rounds 2 and 3 of the Local Authority Housing Fund. A Grant Agreement will entered into following Cabinet approval.	

Key Decision: Yes	Funding within MTFP/ Capital Programme: Yes
Delegated Officer: Carolyn Nice, Director of Adults and Health	
Checks and Balances: Decision in consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include Finance and Procurement. Legal for certain specified decisions.	