

REPORT TO CABINET

17 SEPTEMBER 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

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Annex 1

Department: Community Services & Transport	Category: Transportation
Scheme: Yarm Road / Darlington Back Lane /Bishopton Road West Junctions Signalisation	Budget: £5.5m
Contract(s) Purpose Signalisation of the Yarm Road/Darlington Back Lane junction, with the option to signalise the Bishopton Road West junction.	
Contract(s) Value £4.2m	
Procurement Process The project will be procured through a direct award to Balfour Beatty via the SCAPE Framework. This route has been selected as Balfour Beatty previously undertook pricing and programme development for the works as part of a larger scheme linked to the Elton Interchange project. The projects were subsequently decoupled due to funding constraints; however, Balfour Beatty's existing knowledge of the scheme provides significant advantages in terms of project understanding, programme certainty, and delivery efficiency. The direct award approach was chosen due to the complexity of the works, the need to maintain access and traffic flows on Yarm Back Lane and Darlington Back Lane throughout the construction period, and the requirement to ensure buildability and programme certainty. This procurement route will reuse the early contractor involvement, enabling effective planning, risk management, and efficient project delivery	
Key Decision: Yes	Funding within Capital Programme: An element is already included. However, the contract will not be let until all remaining funding has been secured and signed.
Delegated Officer: Director of Neighbourhoods	
Checks and Balances: Decision in consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include Finance and Procurement. Legal for certain specified decisions.	

Department: Community Services & Transport	Category: Transportation
Scheme: A19/A689 Interchange	Budget: £7.8m
Contract(s) Purpose Construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge to the north of the current interchange with associated footway widening, and reallocation of the existing footway to a third eastbound lane.	
Contract(s) Value £6.5m	
Procurement Process The project will be procured through a direct award to Balfour Beatty via the SCAPE Framework. This route was selected at the direction of the TVCA following a procurement options appraisal undertaken by the TVCA, who are funding the project. The direct award approach has been chosen due to the complexity of the works, the need to coordinate closely with National Highways infrastructure, and the requirement to maintain programme certainty and ensure buildability. This procurement route will facilitate early contractor involvement, enabling collaborative planning, effective risk management, programme optimisation, and efficient project delivery	
Key Decision: Yes	Funding within Capital Programme: An element is already included. However, the contract will not be let until all remaining funding has been secured and signed.
Delegated Officer: Director of Neighbourhoods	
Checks and Balances: Decision in consultation with other appropriate officers for professional advice to include Finance and Procurement. Legal for certain specified decisions.	