

Scrutiny Review of Procurement & Tendering Processes

SBC Procurement

Contract Values below £500k



Exceptions to Contract Procedure Rules

Reason for Exception (2025/26 and 2026/27 to date)	Number of contracts	Sum of Overall Value
Procurement when, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract may be awarded only to a particular third party	51	£12,211,064
Procurement when, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract may be awarded only to a particular third party AND Provision of personal social services including contracts for the provision of residential care and community support packages which form an alternative to residential care	1	£510,000
Procurement when, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract may be awarded only to a particular third party AND Urgency, when (but only if it is strictly necessary) the time required to fully comply with these Contract Procedure Rules would be prejudicial to the Council's interests and provided that a written record is kept documenting the reasons for the urgency. In these cases, consideration should still be given to those parts of the process that could still be followed particularly the need for competition	10	£829,131
The execution of mandatory works and services by statutory undertakers	5	£1,566,234
Urgency, when (but only if it is strictly necessary) the time required to fully comply with these Contract Procedure Rules would be prejudicial to the Council's interests and provided that a written record is kept documenting the reasons for the urgency. In these cases, consideration should still be given to those parts of the process that could still be followed particularly the need for competition	31	£1,805,475

Exceptions to Contract Procedure Rules

Procurement of works, supplies or services not exceeding the applicable EU threshold to meet the requirements of individual contracts that are used for pilot projects	1	£25,000
Procurement of works, supplies or services not exceeding the applicable EU threshold to meet the requirements of individual contracts that are used for pilot projects AND Procurement of services where the contract length cannot reasonably be determined due to funding uncertainty, and the contract is thus deemed temporary in nature	2	£345,856
Procurement of services where the contract length cannot reasonably be determined due to funding uncertainty and the contract is thus deemed temporary in nature.	1	£17,500
Grand Total	102	£17,310,260

Exceptions to Contract Procedure Rules

Procurement when, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract may be awarded only to a particular third party;

Examples

Purchase of 4 Refuse Collection Vehicles (£323k)

The decision is to purchase 4 x Refuse Collection vehicles that Stockton council have operated and maintained for the last 5 years under a contract hire agreement.

Benefits are:

- Stay with the Mercedes/Dennis Eagle/Terberg combination which is vehicle configuration that works well for Stockton.
- All vehicles will be the same combination that driver, crews, and maintenance staff are familiar with.
- Stay with vehicles we have knowledge of that we have operated and maintained.
- Within the purchase price NRG have agreed to complete a re-work program to the refuse collection body and hopper to eliminate major fabrication issues in this area over the next 5 years.
- NRG have agreed to supply a support vehicle FOC to allow the re-work program to be completed with minimal operational impact.
- The workshop team will over maintain the chassis and bin lift over the remainder of the contract to reduce maintenance costs to Stockton after the vehicles are purchased.
- The vehicle being purchased will be in the best position possible to give the authority reliable service at minimal cost.

Stockton Council commenced their Green Waste service April 2025, they went from an open back collection to a wheelie bin service. The authority requires 4 x refuse collection vehicles with bin lifts to supply.

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Examples

All Aboard playscape exhibition at Preston Park Museums (£161k)

The request to appoint “Unusual Projects” directly for the above piece of work has been recommended due to their experience and skills in delivering these specialist playscape exhibitions for museums.

They have experience with similar venues such as Mini Brum (Birmingham Museum), Centre for Life and the National Railway Museum, and have come recommended from the initial design company appointed, KCA.

Playscapes are very specialist as it includes bespoke design and built structures that are robust and suitable for children within the museum. They also have experience in designing and building exhibitions that can be tour-able which is vital for the longevity of this exhibition.

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Examples

Respond Case Management System (£77k 3 yr contract)

A case management system for the Information Governance team to record requests (some statutory) such as Freedom of Information, Environmental Information Regulations requests, Data Protection Act requests, social worker requests from other local authorities, data breaches, MP enquiries, complaints (corporate and statutory), Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman investigations, and Information Commissioner's Officer enquiries. The system supports officers in coordinating the responses, holding a centralised record, and in the preparation of performance reports.

Procurement will be carrying out an exception Direct Award. It will not be cost effective to procure a new system. The current contract is on a rolling contract and will be renewed on a fixed term contract at a reduced price.

The system is currently supplied by Aptean.

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Examples

Lobby Works at Dunedin House (£40k)

The Authority moved into Dunedin House in 2024, with several existing arrangements in place, one being the existing visitor entrance to the building. This is currently one large open plan space with a single set of doors at the entry point. An additional set is urgently required to provide the correct environment for reception staff working in the space and to prevent heat loss during colder months and to comply with the Workplace (H&S Welfare) Regulations 1992.

A detailed design has been completed for an additional set of internal draft lobby doors, together with locking / access arrangements. A detailed quotation has been received from Hobson Smith Construction to undertake the works.

The quote has been checked by the Design Services Team and offers value for money.

Due to the urgency of the installation and the lead in period for the doors an exception has been completed.

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Examples

Purchase of 4 new Peugeot Partner Vans (£79k)

A Contract Hire agreement is currently in place for 4 vans and is due to expire on 04/05/2026 with no arrangement in place to replace these vehicles which are still required. This has resulted in an urgent need to replace these vehicles.

The vehicles are operated by Taxation and Economic Growth & Development Services.

These will be replaced by the purchase of the following:

4 x Partner Pro + STD BHD1 100 (With Screen) Brand New unregistered.

NOTE FROM PROCUREMENT: Quotation process not undertaken in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and without any Procurement Team involvement. Insufficient time to correct process once made aware.

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Examples

Urgent Works at Billingham South Primary School Ceiling Repairs (£262k)

Billingham South Primary School structural issues with lath and plaster ceiling requiring licenced contractor to carry survey and remedial works due to the presence of asbestos debris in loft spaces. Works to be done ASAP. This is urgent due to schools' immediate closure.

There is no time to do a procurement process due to the asbestos issue and need to get children back into school. The school was closed early for school holidays because of the issues.

Construction Route to Market (2025/26 and 2026/27 to date)

Route to Market	Number of contracts	Sum of Estimated Contract Value
Direct Award from Framework Agreement	19	£14,607,603
Exception to Contract Procedure Rules	28	£2,800,423
Further Competition from a Framework Agreement	20	£55,006,378
Quote	20	£3,091,663
Tender	4	£1,767,025
Grand Total	91	£77,273,092