

# St Austell Town Council



## **PROCUREMENT POLICY**

St Austell Town Council procures goods and services to a value of circa £600,000 each year.

The Council strives to attain best value for the goods, materials and services that it purchases. Best Value is defined as a balance of price, quality of product and supplier services and economic and social benefits.

The Council operates a transparent procurement process in accordance with its Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, which cover, amongst other things, the number of quotations required and tender rules.

The purpose of this policy is to provide additional guidance on the factors that will be taken into account when purchasing goods and services.

### **Sustainable procurement**

- a) The Council recognises the importance of sustainability and will take into account the environmental, social and economic impacts of its purchasing decisions.
- b) The Council is required to consider social value in all services contracts above the UK procurement thresholds but recognises that this is good practice for all contracts.
- c) The Council recognises its duty to protect biodiversity under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. To meet this duty the Council will wherever possible purchase products or specify working methods that protect biodiversity.
- d) The Council will, wherever possible, purchase goods that meet Fairtrade standards (or similar).

### **Local procurement**

- a) The Council recognises the benefits to the economy of using local and SME businesses and, where appropriate, the voluntary sector. The Council will seek out local contractors and suppliers wherever possible.

- b) The Council pays a living wage to its employees and will encourage its suppliers to do the same.
- c) All procurement will be in accordance with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.
- d) The Council understands the importance of paying suppliers promptly and will wherever possible settle accounts within a maximum of 30 days, or earlier, by agreement.

### **Health and safety and insurance**

- a) All contractors and suppliers working on Council sites will be required to comply with the Council's Health & Safety policy and any rules specific to the site of operation.
- b) Provision of suitable risk assessments and method statements may be a condition of contracts involving work on Council properties or sites.
- c) The Council requires all contractors working on Council sites and properties to maintain adequate insurance, including but not limited to: Public Liability insurance for £5 million and, where relevant, Professional Indemnity insurance at a level commensurate with the value of the contract.

### **Community engagement**

- a) Where relevant the Council will consult with residents, community groups and service users to better understand what is needed, who will use it and what the essential requirements are for an item of capital expenditure. Examples of when this may apply include provision of new play equipment.

### **Selection criteria**

The following factors may be taken into account in the Council's selection process:

- Health and safety record
- Health and safety procedures
- Financial accounts
- References
- Location of supplier
- Organisational structure and staffing levels
- Organisation's environmental policy

## Procurement procedures and guidance

- a) All contracts over £25,000 will be advertised on the Council's website and the Contracts Finder website.
- b) In accordance with Standing Orders the Council is not obliged to accept the lowest of any tender, quotation or estimate.
- c) The Council maintains monthly accounts with suppliers of regular purchases. All purchases on Council accounts may only be made by authorised Council officers who must either provide a purchase order or be provided with a receipt. Limits will be set on each account on the maximum value of individual purchases and the overall balance on the account. Expenditure over these limits must be authorised by the Town Clerk in advance.
- d) Where additional guidance is needed the following documents will be taken into account:
  - *Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance Practitioners' Guide (England)*
  - NALC LTN87 – Procurement (March 2022)

## Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to changes in legislation.

Estimate value of contract (Net of VAT)	Contract Requirements
Between £500 and £3,000	The RFO will strive to obtain 3 estimates. A purchase order is required.
Between £3,001 and £25,000	The RFO will strive to obtain 3 quotations. A purchase order is required.
Between £25,001 and £60,000	Procurement exercise to be advertised on Town Council and Contract Finder websites. RFO to either strive to obtain 3 quotations or seek tenders.
Between £60,001 and UK Procurement thresholds	Tender advertised on the Town Council and Contract Finder websites. A contract is required.
Above UK Procurement thresholds	Legal advice shall be obtained on the most appropriate processes. A contract is required.