

Item 5a. Contract Procedure Rules – Consultation Process

1. Introduction

Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) are in the process of being harmonised. The first draft of the document has been produced by Trafford Legal and representatives from Procurement, Finance and Legal from Stockport, Trafford and Rochdale (STaR) Councils are in the process of agreeing the format and content for the final draft.

The Inter Authority Agreement specifies that the Joint Committee will have Delegated Authority to approve and amend CPR's for STaR Councils. Consultation is required with wider operational teams because the implications of changing CPRs may impact on the process and resources required to carry out compliant procurement processes in all STaR Councils.

2. Decision Required

The STaR Board is looking for guidance from the Joint Committee as to their preferred approach to the consultation process. The process flow attached provides two routes. The preferred option (A) is one which provides for the Joint Committee to be briefed on the paper prior to consultation and approve the paper only after consultation. The benefits of this approach means that Members are not asked to make a decision on the document until it has been fully consulted upon.

The other option would potentially require approval from the Joint Committee at the beginning of the process and then again at the end, pending any changes arising from the consultation process.

3. Key Issue for Discussion – Sub £50k Procurement Processes

Currently any procurement less than £50k requires officers to select three organisations and request a quotation from each. This means that the opportunities are not openly advertised.

There is particular pressure from small local businesses in Rochdale for these opportunities to be advertised openly rather than officers "selecting" the three bidders.

Should we wish to openly advertise such opportunities, resources required to assess additional bids will increase. In the current environment this is a serious consideration.

3. Process Flow to Illustrate Options and Timeframe

