

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday, 27 June 2022

Minute extract

12 REVIEW OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Committee's Solicitor presented the report of the Director of Law and Governance which detailed proposed changes to the Contract Procedure Rules following a review of the provisions. They had to be reviewed every two years. Some of the changes were technical regarding change of rules such as those caused by leaving the EU. Others derived from a report by CIPFA which recommended that the limits for contracts being allowed by officers be changed to speed up contracts where there was little risk and the value for money was recognised.

Members queried the detail in the report and expressed reservations regarding the level and route for reporting of breaches in section 3.2.3. They felt the new version weakened the controls.

Councillor Tony Cox proposed that for section 3.2.3 the original text be preserved. This was seconded by the Chair and agreed by assent.

Members also clarified the procedures around the opening of tenders and requested a process map to help people unfamiliar with the process.

Resolved – That the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules that are highlighted in the appendix to this report be approved with the exception of section 3.2.3 where the original text is to be preserved, and Constitutional and Standards Committee be asked to recommend their adoption by the full Council as part of the Council's Constitution.