

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

29 SEPTEMBER 2022

MINUTE EXTRACT

16 REVIEW OF CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Principal Lawyer Mr Hughes introduced the report of the Head of Legal Services (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

The report outlined the recommendations of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in respect of the Review of Contract Procedure Rules.

The Chair noted that he was a Member of the Audit and Risk Management Committee and queried if an interest needed to be declared. The Head of Legal Services confirmed that this would not preclude the Chair from taking part in the debate.

Members noted the recommendation from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to empower Council officers to accept single quotations of under £25,000 in value without competition to speed up the procurement process, and asked for reassurance that officers could not make multiple purchases of just below £25,000 without some oversight.

The Principal Lawyer noted that such purchases can only be made by senior procuring officers and that there would always be an audit trail.

Members noted that the report to Audit and Risk Management Committee stated that the proposed Contract Procedure Rules have a Best Value and a Social Value criteria and questioned how much weighting was given to either of these criteria.

The Principal Lawyer noted that they were intertwined and that for a contract to be most economically advantageous, social value had to be taken into account under the Contract Procedure Rules, with a minimum weight of 5% to be taken into account for a tender.

Councillor Julie McManus requested that further investigation be made into how Social Value is considered during the tender process. The Chair agreed that he would seek further clarification from officers after the meeting and feedback to Members of the Committee.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist it was –

Resolved – That the adoption of the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules be recommended to Full Council as part of the Council’s Constitution.