

1. Introduction

Newport City Council wishes to maintain and further improve the quality, economy, and effectiveness of all its services, and is progressing this through its commitment to the national drive for improvement in public service, including community leadership by local government in support for the government's new approach to public service, Continuous Improvement.

Within the Continuous Improvement context, the Council will want to ensure that the public will receive services that reflect the highest standards of conduct and have confidence in the integrity of its employees.

The purpose of this Code is to outline existing legislation, regulations and conditions of service and will provide guidance to assist employees in exercising appropriate conduct during their employment with Newport City Council.

The Code has been prepared in consultation with the Trade Unions and forms part of the Council's Terms and Conditions.

Reference to the development of local codes of conduct can be found in both the National Joint Council for Local Government Services National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service (Green Book), and Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Craft and Associated Employees National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Services (Red Book).

The Conditions of Service for Teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools (Burgundy Book) refers to the provision of the authority's own conditions, which provide further safeguards for, and obligations on the individual teacher.

The Code is applicable to all employees and is recommended for adoption by the Governing Bodies of the schools within Newport City Council.

This document constitutes Part 5, Section 2 of the Council Constitution

POLICY

2 Standards

2.1 Local government employees are expected to give the highest possible standard of service to the public, and where it is part of their duties, to provide appropriate advice to councillors and fellow employees with impartiality. The Authority's expectation on propriety and accountability is that

employees at all levels will lead by example, by ensuring adherence to rules and that all procedures and practices are above reproach.

2.2 The Code incorporates the existing laws, regulations and conditions of service and is intended to assist employees in their day-to-day work, in the light of the challenges they face in the new and more commercially orientated environment. The code has been produced with the objective of setting guidelines for employees, which will help to maintain and improve standards of conduct and protect employees from misunderstanding or accusations of improper conduct.

2.3 The Code itself cannot cover all cases likely to arise in practice, but the principles do. Ultimately, the Authority relies on the integrity, common sense and professional judgement of individual employees. It is not enough to avoid actual impropriety, employees must, at all times, avoid any occasion for suspicion and any appearance of improper conduct. Employees must not hesitate at any time to seek advice from their line manager on the interpretation of the code, or when circumstances arise which it does not cover.

2.4 Employees must ensure that they are aware of the principles of the Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and Council Policies and Procedures and at all times act in accordance with best practice when dealing with the affairs of the Authority. Employees are also expected to follow any Code of Conduct related to their professional bodies. Further information relating to the above can be found on the internal Intranet facility or alternatively can be obtained from your Line Manager/Support Services Division/Head Teacher.

2.5 It is the responsibility of all employees, without fear of recrimination, to bring to the attention of the appropriate level of management, any impropriety or breach of procedure. This they can do in the knowledge that such concerns will be treated with the utmost confidence and properly investigated. Further information on the appropriate procedure to be followed can be found in the Council's Disclosure of Malpractice 'Whistleblowing' Policy.

3 Political Neutrality

3.1 Employees serve the Authority as a whole. It follows they must serve all councillors and not just those of the controlling group, and must ensure that the individual rights of all councillors are respected.

3.2 Employees should not be called upon to advise any political group of the Authority, either as to the work of the group or as to the work of the Authority, and they should not be required to attend any meetings of any political group. However, it is accepted that certain employees may be invited to advise any political group of the Authority as part of the substantive duties and responsibilities of their post.

3.3 Employees, whether or not politically restricted, must follow every lawfully expressed policy of the Authority and must not allow their own personal or political opinions to interfere with their work.

3.4 Political assistants appointed on fixed term contracts in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are exempt from the standards set in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2.

3.5 Employees holding politically restricted posts are disqualified from membership of any local authority, other than a parish or community council, from being an AM, MP or MEP and are subject to prescribed restrictions on their political activity, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (s1(5),(6)).

3.6 Politically restricted posts are defined as:

- specified posts, such as the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer. Chief Officers and their deputies are restricted without exemption or appeal.
- all posts which reach or exceed Spinal Column Point 44 or equivalent remuneration level unless exemption for individuals is granted.
- all posts which meet the duties-related criteria for determining a 'sensitive' post. These posts are defined as, those which give advice on a regular basis to the employing Authority, to any committee or sub-committee or another joint committee on which the Authority is represented, to any Member/Employee Working Groups, or speak on behalf of the Authority on a regular basis to journalists and broadcasters.

A full list of posts that are politically restricted, is available from Human Resources.

4 Equality Issues

4.1 It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure that they act in accordance with the Authority's Equal Opportunities Policy in addition to the legal requirements, and that they themselves do not discriminate in any way against fellow employees or job applicants. All members of the local community, customers and other employees have a right to be treated with fairness and equity.

4.2 Employees should be aware that acts of deliberate discrimination and wilful disregard of equal opportunity policies will be treated as disciplinary offences.

4.3 Employees are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have and to inform management if they suspect that discrimination is occurring within the Authority. Further information on the appropriate procedure to be followed can be found in the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and the Disclosure of Malpractice 'Whistleblowing' Policy.

5 Disclosure of Information

5.1 Employees should not use any information obtained in the course of their employment for personal gain or benefit, nor should they pass it on to others who might use it in such a way. Any particular information received by an employee from a councillor, which is personal to that councillor and does not belong to the Authority, should not be divulged by the employee without the prior approval of that councillor, except where such disclosure is required or sanctioned by the law.

5.2 Information concerning an employee's personal, or employment details will not be supplied to any person, unless the Authority receives a written request containing the employee's consent.

5.3 Employees should not communicate to the public, the proceedings of any meeting that constitutes part of the Council's democratic decision-making process, nor the content of any document relating to the Authority unless required by law or expressly authorised to do so.

5.4 Employees should be aware of which information the Authority is and is not open about, and act accordingly. If an employee is unsure about any aspect of disclosure of information, they should refer to their Line Manager/Head Teacher

5.5 An employee who receives a request from the media to comment on any issues concerning the services of the Authority shall not comment without the express consent of a Chief Officer.

5.6 All employees must abide by the principles of any current Data Protection Act and act in accordance with the Council's code of best practice. As an employee of the Authority, it is part of your job to ensure that personal data remains confidential and secure. Misuse or unauthorised disclosure of personal data can lead to personal prosecution and disciplinary action in accordance with the Authority's Disciplinary Procedure.

5.7 For the purpose of internal audit, the Head of Finance and Scrutiny and his/her nominated representative shall have authority to:

- enter at all reasonable times on any Council premises or land without prior notice.
- have access to all records, documents, computer programs and files and correspondence relating to any financial and related transactions of the Council.
- require and receive such explanations as are necessary concerning any matter under examination.
- require any employee of the Council to produce cash, stores or any other Council property under their control or such items in their custody as an officer of the Council which are the property of other persons.
- secure and prevent access to any equipment and records subject to an immediate report to the relevant Chief Officer.

Further information can be obtained from Paragraph 5 of the Authority's Financial Regulations.

6 Relationships

6.1 Councillors

6.1.1 Employees are responsible to the Authority, and for some, their role is to give advice to councillors and senior managers and all are there to carry out the Authority's work. Mutual respect between employees and councillors is essential to good local government. Close personal familiarity between employees and individual councillors can damage the relationship and prove embarrassing to other employees and councillors and should therefore be avoided.

6.1.2 Employees should operate within the Authority's management structure and procedures on all matters affecting service delivery and employment. Employees must not 'lobby' councillors on these issues. Exception to this will be made for recognised Trade Union Officials through the mechanisms and procedures established by the Trade Unions and the Council.

6.1.3 Employees must take instructions from their immediate line manager as outlined in the reporting structure of their job description. If an employee is asked by a councillor to undertake duties, or comment on a matter that falls outside the boundaries of their responsibilities or is a breach of the Authority's policies and procedures, the matter should be raised with their Line Manager/Head of Law and Standards/Head Teacher. Further guidance on the procedure to be followed can be found in the Disclosure of Malpractice 'Whistleblowing' Policy.

6.1.4 Councillors will act in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct in the course of their working relationship with employees.

6.2 The Local Community and Service Users

6.2.1 Employees should always remember their responsibilities to the community they serve and ensure courteous, efficient and impartial service delivery to all groups and individuals within that community as defined by the policies of the Authority.

6.2.2 For areas of the Council where employees are involved in the care and protection of service users, particularly those of a more vulnerable nature, it is expected that they will protect the rights and promote the interests of service users and ensure the trust and confidence of those service users are established and maintained. Wherever possible, employees should protect service users from danger or harm, and follow practice and procedure designed to keep employees, service users and other people safe from violent and abusive behaviour.

6.2.3 Employees should respect the dignity, privacy and confidentiality of service users. They must not in any way, abuse, neglect or harm service users, exploit their professional relationship with them or abuse their trust. Employees must report to their Line Manager/ Head Teacher concerns regarding the welfare of a service user.

6.2.4 Employees must not form inappropriate relationships with service users, and must inform their Line Manager/ Head Teacher of any conflicts of interest in relation to service users.

6.3 Contractors

6.3.1 All relationships of a business or private nature with external contractors, or potential contractors, should be made known to the appropriate manager. Orders and contracts must be awarded on merit, by fair competition against other tenders, and no special favour should be shown to businesses run by, for example, friends, partners, or relatives in the tendering process. No part of the local community should be discriminated against.

6.3.2 Employees who engage or supervise contractors or have any other official relationship with contractors and have previously had or currently have a relationship in a private or domestic capacity with contractors, should declare that relationship to the appropriate manager.

6.4 Partner Agencies

All relationships of a business or private nature between employees who are involved in working alongside partner agencies in joint initiatives should be made known to the appropriate manager.

7 Separation of Roles During Tendering

7.1 Employees involved in the tendering process and dealing with contractors should be clear on the separation of client and contractor roles within the Authority. Senior employees who have both a client and contractor responsibility must be aware of the need for accountability and openness.

7.2 Employees must also ensure that they are aware of and comply with the Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations when awarding contracts for goods and/or other services.

7.3 Employees in contractor or client units must exercise fairness and impartiality when dealing with all customers, suppliers, other contractors and sub-contractors.

7.4 Employees who are privy to confidential information on tenders or costs for either internal or external contractors should not disclose that information to any unauthorised party or organisation.

7.5 Employees contemplating a management buyout should, as soon as they have formed a definite intent, inform the appropriate manager and withdraw from the contract awarding processes.

7.6 In order to avoid any possible accusation of bias, wherever possible, employees should not be involved in the tendering process where they are related to or have a close personal relationship with potential contractors. Orders and contracts must be awarded on merit; hence employees should not put themselves in a position to compromise their integrity.

7.7 Employees should ensure that no special favour is shown to current or recent former employees or their partners, close relatives or associates in awarding contracts to businesses run by them or employing them in a senior or relevant managerial capacity.

8 Personal Interests

8.1 If an employee knows that a contract in which he/she has a pecuniary interest is proposed to be entered into by the Authority, he/she must give notice of his/her interest in writing to the Authority.

8.2 There are also areas other than contracts where pecuniary interest must be disclosed even though there is no statutory requirement. Remuneration from a firm that has dealings with the Authority is a direct interest. If the

remuneration were to be paid by the firm to a partner or known relative this would also be regarded as direct interest. It is in the best interests of the employee to exercise caution, and declare any relationship that may fall into the circumstances outlined above. 'Remuneration' includes commission, honoraria, dividends, agency fees and interests in addition to salary, wages or fees.

8.3 The legal requirement to disclose pecuniary interest is intended to preserve public confidence in the conduct and integrity of local government employees. It is with this objective in mind that the Authority also require you to declare other interests of friendship, relationship, or membership, which could give rise to suspicion, however ill-founded, that you could be influenced by improper motives in performing your duties.

8.4 The disclosure of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests should be submitted by completing an Employee Disclosures Form. This can be found under requests and survey in your ESS (Employee Self Service) Account. These disclosures will be maintained and are subject to periodic review.

8.5 Employees should declare to an appropriate manager membership of any organisation does not open to the public without formal membership and commitment of allegiance and which has secrecy about rules, membership, or conduct.

8.6 The registration of these interests is the best defence against ill-informed or malicious allegations. You must not allow the impression to be created of you that you are, or may be, using your position to promote a private or personal interest, including those of your family and friends as well as those arising through membership of, or association with, clubs, societies and other organisations.

9 Appointment and Other Employment Matters

9.1 Employees involved in appointments should ensure that these are made on the basis of merit. It would be unlawful for an employee to make an appointment, which was based on anything other than the ability of the candidate to undertake the duties of the post. In order to avoid any possible accusation of bias, employees involved in appointments are required to disclose to the Authority any relationship known to them to exist between themselves and a candidate whether they are related to an applicant, or have a close personal relationship outside of work with him or her. Following the disclosure, the employee should not be involved in the appointment process. It is the duty of the Chief Executive to report to the Authority or appropriate committee of any such disclosure made.

9.2 Employees who are involved on the appointment process should adhere to the Council's Recruitment and Selection Procedure.

9.3 Similarly, employees should not be involved in decisions relating to discipline, promotion or pay adjustments for any other employee who is a relative or partner.

9.4 If you are called upon to take part in appointing an officer, the only question you should consider is which candidate would best serve the whole Council. You should not let your political or personal preferences influence your judgement. You should not canvass the support of colleagues for a candidate and you should resist any attempt by others to canvass yours. Further information on recruitment can be found in the Recruitment and Selection Procedure.

10 Outside Commitments

10.1 Employees are not precluded by their Contracts of Employment from accepting other employment outside their normal working hours with other employers. Such employment must be declared to the employee's manager to ensure that it does not in any way hinder or conflict with the interests of their employment with the Council, or in any way weaken public confidence in the conduct of the Authority's business. This should be done by completing an Employee Disclosures Form. This can be found under requests and survey in your ESS (Employee Self Service) Account. These disclosures will be maintained and are subject to periodic review.

10.2 When it is considered that the nature of the employee's external employment will be in conflict with the Authority's business, the Council reserves the right to further discuss the implications of this with the employee. Employees are advised to seek advice from their Line Manager/Head Teacher before accepting external employment.

10.3 Employees who accept other employment must adhere to the Working Time Regulations, and sign an individual agreement with the Authority to disapply the forty-eight hour working week limit (if applicable). Further information on this can be obtained from your Human Resources.

10.4 Employees should not undertake outside work if it makes use of material to which the employee has access by virtue of his or her position. It is irrelevant whether or not the work is paid for. If work is undertaken which makes use of similar materials to which the employee has access to by virtue of employment, and in the interests of the employee, receipts of the purchase of such materials should be retained.

10.5 Employees above spinal column point 28 shall devote their whole-time service to the work of the Council and shall not engage in any other business or take up any other appointment without the express consent of the Council.

10.6 Exactly what constitutes a business can be open to interpretation. The amount of time such an activity occupies and whether additional income is received as a result, are examples of factors to be taken into consideration in determining this. For the purpose of this Code, a business will be construed to incorporate any work or activity of whatever nature, whether paid or unpaid, undertaken by an employee in connection with any trade, profession, occupation or commercial venture including the purchase and sale of goods and services.

11 Copyright/Ownership/Intellectual Rights

11.1 If, whilst employed by Newport City Council, and during the course of their duties an employee originated any design or other work in which copyright or intellectual rights may subsist, then they must disclose it to the Authority and regard themselves as a trustee for the Authority in this matter.

11.2 Newport City Council is then assigned, by way of future assignment of copyright, the copyright and other proprietary rights throughout the world in respect of all copyright works written, originated, conceived, or made by that employee.

11.3 Employees should execute such deeds or documents and all such acts or things as may be necessary, or desirable, to substantiate the rights of the Authority in respect to matters referred to in paragraph 11.2 above.

11.4 These rules apply irrespective of whether the work was done alone or with another person or persons. The rules also apply if the work was done during the course of duties but outside normal hours.

11.5 These rules do not apply for works written, originated, conceived or made wholly outside normal working hours, and are wholly unconnected with the individual's employment with Newport City Council.

12 Corruption

Employees must be aware that it is a serious criminal offence for them to corruptly receive or give any gift, loan, fee, reward or advantage for doing, or not doing, anything or showing favour, or disfavour, to any person in their official capacity. It is in the best interests of the employee to be able to demonstrate that any such rewards have not been corruptly obtained.

13 Declaration of Bribes/Threats

Staff must disclose to the appropriate manager, details of any threats, offers or bribes made to them by:

- any person under the supervision of the service, or made on behalf of such a person, with the intention of securing some advantage.
- any person attempting to secure some advantage on behalf of themselves, others, or their company in connection with dealings with the Authority.

14 Gifts and Hospitality

14.1 Employees should treat with extreme caution any offer or gift that is made to them which is in any way linked to their work for the Council. No employee should accept any gift or hospitality from any person, firm or organisation with whom the Council has had, is having, or is contemplating having, dealings of any kind, other than in accordance with this Code.

14.2 Employees should only accept offers of hospitality if there is a genuine need to impart information or represent the Local Authority in the community. Offers to attend purely social or sporting functions should be accepted only when these are part of the life of the community or where the Authority should be seen to be represented. They should be properly authorised and recorded. To do this you will need to complete the Gifts or Hospitality Disclosure form. This can be found under requests and survey in your ESS

(Employee Self Service) Account. These disclosures will be maintained and are subject to periodic review. in the register of gifts and hospitality.

14.3 The acceptance of any gift or hospitality shall be subject to Line Management /Head Teacher approval. Approval should be obtained before acceptance. Employees should complete the Gifts or Hospitality Disclosure form for any offer of a gift or hospitality regardless of whether or not they accept it.

14.4 Employees should not accept significant personal gifts from contractors and outside suppliers, although it is considered acceptable for employees to keep insignificant items of token value such as pens, diaries, etc. The distinction must be drawn between such items, which may be used at work, as opposed to gifts of a personal nature, which should be refused. Whilst it is impossible to set and adhere to a financial limit on the value of any gifts or favours, which may be regarded as acceptable, the general rule applies that any gifts accepted should be low in value.

14.5 When receiving authorised hospitality, employees should be particularly sensitive as to its timing in relation to decisions which the Authority may be taking affecting those providing the hospitality.

14.6 Acceptance by employees of hospitality through attendance at relevant conferences and courses is acceptable where it is clear the hospitality is corporate rather than personal, where the Authority gives consent in advance and where the Authority is satisfied that any purchasing decisions are not compromised. Where visits to inspect equipment, etc. are required, employees should ensure that the Authority meets the cost of such visits to avoid jeopardising the integrity of subsequent purchasing decisions.

14.7 Gifts and hospitality must not be accepted from the same party on a frequent or regular basis, in order to avoid any concern that proper working relationships are consequently being compromised.

14.8 When hospitality has to be declined, those making the offer should be courteously but firmly informed of the procedures and standards operating within the Authority.

14.9 When a gift is received, but not authorised for acceptance, it shall either be returned to the giver, or with the giver's consent, passed to the Mayor for donating to a local charity or similar organisation. 12

14.10 In the interests of openness and accountability, these disclosure forms will be maintained in the ITrent / ESS system and will be subject to periodic review. Each employee is responsible for declaring this information via their ESS Account.

15 Sponsorship - Giving and Receiving

15.1 Where an outside organisation wishes to sponsor or is seeking to sponsor a local government activity, whether by invitation, tender, negotiation or voluntarily, the basic conventions concerning

acceptance of gifts or hospitality apply. Particular care must be taken when dealing with contractors or potential contractors.

15.2 Where the Authority wishes to sponsor an event or service neither an employee nor any partner, spouse or relative must benefit from such sponsorship in a direct way without there being full disclosure to an appropriate manager of such interest. Similarly, where the Authority through sponsorship, grant aid, financial or other means, gives support in the community, employees should ensure that impartial advice is given and that there is no conflict of interest involved.

16 Use of Financial Resources

Employees must ensure that they use public funds entrusted to them in a responsible and lawful manner. They should strive to ensure value for money to the local community and to avoid legal challenge to the Authority. Employees are encouraged to raise any concerns they may have, with regard to the lawfulness of certain actions, in accordance with procedures set out in the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. Further guidance on the appropriate procedures can be obtained from your Line Manager/Head Teacher.

17 Employees Charged with Offences

Employees charged with criminal offences, the nature of which, are in any way related to the employee's post are required to inform the appropriate manager at the earliest opportunity.

18 Conclusion

18.1 This Code should be made available to all employees throughout the Authority and should be issued to new recruits as part of their induction programme.

18.2 Employees are required to acknowledge through the on-boarding process that they have read this Code and that they fully understand the principles of the guidance given.

18.3 If employees are unclear about any part of this Code, they should contact the Human Resources or the Internal Audit Section for clarification.

18.4 This Code of Conduct will be subject to regular review. Any subsequent amendments will be made in consultation with the Trade Unions.

Appendix 1 Relevant legislation/ regulations

Local Government Act 1972

Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 and 1919

Local Government Officers (Political Restrictions) Regulations 1990

Local Government (Politically Restricted Posts) (No 2) Regulations 1990

Sex Discrimination Act 1975

Race Relations Act 1976

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

Local Government (Direct Service Organisation) (Consultation) Regulations 1993

Appendix 2 Summary/extracts of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations FOR ALL PURCHASES MADE BY THE COUNCIL FOR GOODS/SERVICES

CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS (CSO)

CSO 1 Compliance with Standing Orders Every contract made by or on behalf of the Council must comply with these Standing Orders. Arrangements to meet the requirements of any future legislation or EU directive shall take precedence over these Standing Orders.

CSO 2 EU Public Procurement Directives The requirements of the appropriate EU Public Procurement Directive shall be complied with in relation to all contracts for the execution of works or supply of goods/services.

CSO 3 Excepted Contracts Contract Standing Orders 4,5,6,7,8 and 15(a) shall not apply when: the purchase of goods/services cost less than £4000; where goods or materials can only be obtained from one supplier (when no satisfactory alternative can be obtained); and purchases or sales are by auction, at public fairs or markets.

CSO 5 Open Competitive Tendering Except where the Council has deemed that Standing Orders 6,7 or 8 apply, no contract exceeding £35,000 shall be made unless at least 10 days public notice has been given in at least one local newspaper, also for contracts exceeding £75,000 notice (of invitation to tender) must be given in either a newspaper or journal which circulates persons capable of undertaking such a contract.

CSO 6 Selective Tendering by Advertisement This Standing Order shall have effect where, by virtue of a decision of the Council, invitation to tender for a contract is to be limited to persons who reply to a public notice. Invitations to tender should be sent to no less than four persons who applied. If there were less than four persons who applied all persons should be invited. Where such work falls within the activities of Monwel Hankinson or the Central Supplies Organisation each should be afforded the opportunity to tender as one of the four persons.

CSO 7 Selective Tendering - List of Approved Contractors Where a list of approved contractors is maintained, an invitation to tender shall be sent to at least four of those persons. Persons on the list should be selected on a fair and equitable basis through either strict rotation or by other means to ensure fair competition, value for money and quality of service.

CSO 8 Contracts for Services - Approved Register This Standing Order shall have effect where the Council has determined that a register shall be kept of persons to be invited to tender for contracts for the provision of services to the Council in specified categories. The register should include the names of all persons who wish to be included (and have been approved by the Council) and the type of service the person wishes to provide. Where no nationally accepted scale of fees and charges is in force tenders should be invited from no less than four persons on the register.

CSO 9 Nominated Sub-Contractors & Suppliers The sub-contractor must be willing to enter into a contract with the main contractor indemnifying the main contractor against work/goods included in the sub-contract.

CSO 10 Invitations to Tender Each invitation to tender shall name the latest day and hour for receipt of tenders.

CSO 11 Submission of Tenders Each invitation to tender should be addressed to the Head of Law & Standards in a plain, sealed envelope bearing only the word 'Tender'. No facsimile transmissions will be accepted.

CSO 12 Receipt of Tenders All tenders received will be consecutively numbered and the receiving officer will record the date and time it was received. Any tenders received after the date and time indicated for the receipt of tenders will not be considered unless approved by the Cabinet Member.

CSO 13 Opening of Tenders When the tenders have been opened (all together at a designated time) each will be initialled and the name of each person, the amount, date and time of opening, officers present and the nature of the goods/services to be supplied will be recorded.

CSO 14 Acceptance of Tenders No tender, other than the lowest (for payment of goods/services) shall be accepted until the Cabinet or appropriate Cabinet Member has considered a written report from the appropriate Head of Service.

CSO 15 Form of Contract No contract will be entered into without written quotations from four competent persons having been obtained and the contract having been agreed by the Head of Law & Standards. Contracts over £75,000 must be made under the seal of the Council.

CSO 15(a) Children Act 1989 & National Health Service, and Community Care Act 1990 This Standing Order shall have effect in respect of contracts for the provision of services under the Children Act 1989 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990.

CSO 16 Contents of Contract Every contract shall specify (in writing) the work/materials/things to be furnished, the price to be paid (with a statement of discounts or other deductions) and the timescale within which the contract is to be performed. In each contract that exceeds £10,000 clauses protecting the Council's interest must be included.

CSO 17 Contracts - Disposal of Assets Heads of Service, in consultation with the Head of Finance & Scrutiny shall be authorised to dispose of goods/materials by auction, tender or private sale (whichever would result in the best price for the Council). Where a surplus item is likely to raise more than £5,000 the appropriate Cabinet Member must be consulted.

This is an abbreviated version of the Council's Contract Standing Orders. Copies of the full version can be obtained from your line manager or on the Council's Intranet system. The full version should be referred to in the first instance where it is felt there may be scope for interpretation.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1 **General** These regulations apply to all Council employees

2 **Financial Control and Supervision** Non-compliance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations may be considered a disciplinary offence.

3 **Budgeting & Budgetary Control** Chief Officers are responsible for monitoring, controlling and reporting all activities which incur expenditure or generate income against the approved budget and ensuring that staff have been adequately trained in the use of the corporate financial systems.

4 **Accounting** There should be segregation of duties between officers collecting income on behalf of the Authority and those officers responsible for recording, calculating and checking these sums.

5 **Audit** Internal Audit representatives must be able to enter at all reasonable times any Council premises without notice and have access to all records, documents, computer programs, files and correspondence relating to any financial and related transactions of the Council. In every case where any matter arises that could involve irregularities / suspected irregularities concerning cash, stores or Council property the Chief Internal Auditor must be notified immediately. Any new system developments must be reported to the Chief Internal Auditor to ensure that adequate internal controls exist.

6 **Petty Cash & Other Advances** Payments made from the petty cash imprest shall be limited to a maximum value and receipts must be available to support the expenditure. No income should be paid to the Authority through the imprest account.

7 **Banking Arrangements** No bank accounts with reference to the Council or an establishment will be set up without the prior approval of the Head of Finance & Scrutiny.

8 **Contracts for Supply of Goods & Materials, Building, Constructional Maintenance or Engineering Work, etc.** For contracts up to £4,000 in value at least four oral quotations must be obtained and appropriately recorded. For contracts of a value between £4,000 and £35,000 at least four written quotations must be obtained. For all contracts that exceed £35,000 in value, tendering procedures (as per Standing Orders) must be carried out.

9 **Property** A list of all properties owned by the Council (except dwellings provided under the Housing Acts) must be included in the Council's asset register.

10 **Income** All income received on behalf of the Council must be receipted and banked in the Authority's name, promptly and intact. All handovers of Council monies between officers must be appropriately shown. In no circumstances are personal cheques to be cashed through Council funds.

11 **Grants** Chief officers are responsible for ensuring that proper arrangements are in place in respect of all grants from whatever source, which may be due to the Council.

12 Insurances All new risks, properties or vehicles that need to be insured must be notified to the Head of Law & Standards as should all deletions and other alterations necessary to existing insurances. Appropriate officers are included in a suitable fidelity guarantee. The Council's Insurance fund will be reviewed annually.

13 Inventories & Asset Registers An inventory / asset register must be maintained and should be checked at least annually and certified to the effect that the information is correct. Any anomalies found must be reported.

14 Treasury Management All Council monies aggregated for the purpose of treasury management shall be under the control of the Head of Finance & Scrutiny.

15 Orders for Work, Goods and Services Official orders must be completed for all work, goods or services supplied to the Council and be certified by an authorised officer. A list of authorising signatures will be maintained by the Head of Finance & Scrutiny and should be updated as necessary (i.e., when a current authorised signatory leaves). Segregation of duties must exist between those officers ordering, receiving, paying and accounting for the purchase of goods / services.

16 Payment of Accounts All payments for goods /services via an invoice must be made through the Council's bank account. Invoices must be correctly coded and certified by an approved officer prior to the payment being processed.

17 Salaries & Wages All matters affecting the payment of salaries and wages (i.e., appointments, resignations, dismissals, suspensions, absences from duty etc.) must be notified promptly.

18 Security All Chief Officers are responsible for maintaining proper security of the buildings, stock, furniture, equipment, cash and assets under their control at all times. In the case of a burglary / break in the Police must be notified immediately and the Head of Finance & Scrutiny should be informed as soon as possible of the incident and the details of any losses. Internet access / other IT facilities must not be used for non-work-related matters without the consent of the appropriate Chief Officer.

19 Stocks and Stores Stock held shall not be in excess of normal requirements. A system of regular stock taking should be operated and year end certificates be completed indicating the value of stock held to be submitted to the Head of Finance & Scrutiny.

20 Financial Instructions Guidance to employees through the issue of Financial Instructions may be issued from time to time. These documents must be deemed to have the same authority as if they were specifically referred to in Financial Regulations.

21 Leasing All leasing agreements must be made through the Head of Finance & Scrutiny.

22 Officers' Fees, Travelling and Subsistence Allowances and Incidental Expenses All claims must be certified by an approved officer and submitted to the Head of Finance & Scrutiny no later than three months after the expenses were incurred. All subsistence claims must be supported by a relevant receipt.

23 Protection of Private Property The Head of Finance & Scrutiny must be promptly notified of any cases where it is considered necessary to take into possession any movable property belonging to a third party in order to mitigate loss or damage to such property. All such items must be recorded in an appropriate inventory and certified by two officers.

This is an abbreviated version of Financial Regulations. Copies of the full version can be obtained either from your line manager or on the Council's Intranet system. The full version should be referred to in the first instance where it is felt there may be scope for interpretation.

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Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Notes/Changes
V1	01/03/2003	Human Resources	Council Constitution
V1.1	21/07/2017	Human Resources	Version control
V1.2	25/09/2018	Human Resources	Link to new register of disclosure form
V2	09/04/2020	Human Resources	New template and amendment to appendix numbers
V2.1	17/12/2020	Human Resources	Re-establish link to disclosure form
V2.2	05/03/2021	Human Resources	Re-establish link to disclosure form
V2.3	08/02/2023	Human Resources	General Review & Update of disclosure process
e.g. VI	Click to enter date.	Click to enter text	Click to enter text
e.g. VI	Click to enter date.	Click to enter text	Click to enter text
e.g. VI	Click to enter date.	Click to enter text	Click to enter text