

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Cabinet
Date:	20 th April 2026
Subject:	Procurement Pipeline for goods, works and services in excess of £214,904 from April 2026 onwards.
Lead Member:	Councillor Bedi– Lead Member for Finance, Children and Lifelong Learning
Chief Officer:	Ian O'Donnell – Executive Director Executive Director Corporate Resources (S151 Officer)
Contact Officer:	Nick Penny – Director of Finance Corporate and Commercial
Ward(s):	All
Key Decision:	YES
Exempt:	NO
Decision Subject To Call In:	YES
Appendices:	A - List of services to be procured in excess of £214,904 for which procurement is due to commence from April 2026 onwards (To Follow)

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1. This report seeks authority from Cabinet for commencement of procurement activity for contracts with an estimated value of over £214,904 (including VAT), where procurement activity is expected to commence between April 2026 and October 2027.
- 1.2. The pipeline at this stage is an indication of intended procurement activity during this period and is subject to change, where the change in approach is significant a further update will be provided in the form of a separate cabinet report related to the individual procurement.
- 1.3. It should be noted that contracts for services or goods valued over £500,000 and works valued over £1million require separate Cabinet approval prior to award of contract, unless Cabinet determines to delegate authority to award a contract to an Executive Officer. The planned procurements that will come back to cabinet for contract award due to the value are shown within Appendix A.
- 1.4. It is now a statutory requirement that the Council produce a pipeline notice of all upcoming tenders valued over £2m. This is required within 56 days of the start

of the financial year. It is also good practice to include within the pipeline report any tenders over and above £214,904 (including VAT).

1.5. **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (a) Approve the commencement of procurement activity for the list of all goods, works and services set out in Appendix A and the publication of statutory notices.
- (b) Note that contract awards for services and/or goods valued over £500,000 and works valued over £1million will be presented to cabinet for approval, unless Cabinet determines to delegate authority to award a contract to an Executive Officer as part of a separate procurement report.

Reason: to ensure that Cabinet has proper oversight of planned procurement activities. Decisions on whether to award contracts will be made following internal governance and expenditure control panel review to ensure value for money.

Commissioner Review

The Procurement Act 2023 provides more flexibility and requires greater transparency throughout the procurement lifecycle and expands mandatory reporting for KPIs and procurement breaches. Publishing a forward-looking pipeline of activity enables Cabinet to have proper oversight of planned material procurement activity, engagement as may be required, performance and compliance and help to open the procurement to Micro, SMEs and VCSEs, providing them with time to plan for future work and collaborate with partners on delivery solutions.

The procurement team is required to keep this information up to date and seek to prevent contract values from being intentionally manipulated or set artificially low to bypass the Cabinet key decision threshold. If any contract award or subsequent spending variation is projected to exceed the key decision threshold, it must automatically revert to Cabinet for formal consideration and approval.

The Commissioners are content with this report being considered.

2. Report

Introductory paragraph

- 2.1 Procurement now takes place under the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023, which provides for greater flexibility, transparency and increased reporting requirements. The new cycle of public notices, which started from May 2025 includes the Pipeline Notice, which requires the Council to publish all planned procurements for the next 18 months at the start of each financial year.
- 2.2 The Council has reviewed its contracts register to streamline the process for identifying those contracts that are due for renewal in the next 12-24 months, as well as considering the requirement for new procurements. In this report the Council is publishing all planned procurement activity for the next 18 months.
- 2.3 As highlighted above the published pipeline is an early indication of intended procurement activity over the period, which is subject to change. Where that

change is significant a separate report will be brought back to cabinet highlighting the change in approach and reasoning for this.

- 2.4 The published pipeline contains areas of intended procurement which have the potential for amalgamation, deriving benefit from the reduced volume of procurement activity or economies of scale. In this instance the requirement may become a lot which can be suppliers can bid for as part of a larger contract.

Options considered

Option 1:

- 2.5 Approval of a procurement forward plan. The Council's new Contract Procedure Rules ensuring compliance with the new legislation was agreed at full Council in September 2024. These require Cabinet authority for procurements with a total value of over £214,904 including VAT, this demonstrates good governance and allows Cabinet to consider whether it wants further oversight of any specific procurements. **This is the recommended option.**

Option 2:

- 2.6 No procurement pipeline report, procurements would need to be approved by Cabinet on a tender-by-tender basis. This would require separate reports to Cabinet setting out details of each procurement, which would allow more detail to be provided however it would require a high number of individual reports and increase the risk of non-compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under Part 4.6.1 of the Constitution, and publication requirements of the Procurement Act 2023. **This option is therefore not recommended.**
- 2.7 For contracts for services and/or goods valued over £500,000 and works valued over £1million require separate Cabinet approval prior to award of contract, unless Cabinet determines to delegate authority to award a contract to an Executive Officer. A separate standalone Cabinet report may be presented prior to the tender process commencing for some projects particularly where these are linked to a policy change.

Background

- 2.8 Under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (Part 4.6.1 of the Constitution), Cabinet is responsible for monitoring the contractual arrangements for any significant work delivered by third parties or external bodies. Amended Contract Procedure Rules (CPRS) were approved by Council in September 2024 to reflect the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023. The CPRS require a procurement forward plan be presented to Cabinet for all planned procurements with a total value of £214,904 (inclusive of VAT) for goods and/or services, and works, each April.
- 2.9 For projects listed on the pipeline with a total value under £500,000 (goods and/or services) or under £1 million (works), once approved by cabinet, the award of contract following procurement is delegated to an executive director in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. For any contract over these sums, a separate report will be presented to Cabinet seeking authority to award the contract, unless Cabinet delegates authority to award the contract in this report for reasons for urgency or other appropriate circumstances. To

ensure good governance such delegation should only be in exceptional circumstances. Officers must produce a significant officer decision report for the award of any contract over £50,000 (excluding individual social care and education placements) and these will be published on the Council's website.

- 2.10 This report sets out all planned procurement activity for the next 18 months commencing 1st April 2026. Appendix A shows a list of services to be procured in excess of £214,904 for which procurement is due to commence from April 2026 onwards.
- 2.11 Officers will assess what additional economic, environmental and social value can be achieved through the contracting process. A social value policy for cabinet consideration is to be prepared during 2026/27.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

Financial implications

- 3.1 The pipeline should only reflect projects for which there is approved budget and delegated to officers in accordance with the scheme of delegation, or from specific key decisions approved by Cabinet. Having a clear overview of the planned procurement timetable ensures proper planning to ensure best value and identifies opportunities to scope and rationalise to improve outcomes and value for money.

Legal implications

- 3.2 In accordance with the Procurement Application and Authorisation Table set out in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, all goods/services/works Contracts over £214,904 must be on the Forward Plan presented to Cabinet in order to authorise commencement of procurement. The procurement forward plan will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.
- 3.3 Full business cases should be reviewed by the Council's internal procurement review board. IT projects where there are information governance implications should also be reviewed by the Council's internal Information Governance Board and Technical Design Authority. Any project funded by capital should be approved by the Council's Capital Monitoring Board and included in quarterly reporting of the capital programme.
- 3.4 All contracts over £100,000 should be sealed and the Council's legal advisors (currently HB Public Law) should advise on contract documentation. For works contracts, an appropriate standard form building contract such as JCT or NEC suites of contracts, should be used and advice should be sought from HB Public Law.
- 3.5 The Procurement Act 2023 changes the way the Council does procurement with the aims of standardising transparency across procurement stages, with stricter deadlines and broader disclosure requirements than was required under the previous regulation, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 . It introduces several new notices (e.g., Pipeline, Transparency, Dynamic Market Notices); Expands

mandatory reporting for KPIs, breaches, and below-threshold contracts; Centralises publication of notices via a digital platform managed by the Cabinet Office.

- 3.6 Under the Public Procurement Act 2023, the Council is now also required to meet central government policies relating to economic growth, the development of smaller enterprises, climate change, and social value.

Risk management implications

- 3.7 Failure to include projects in this report will create an administrative burden within the Council, runs the risk of procurements not being included in the budget, and runs, lengthens the procurement process, and runs to risk being highlighted by the external reviews of compliance run by the Cabinet Office.

Environmental implications

- 3.8 There are no specific environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Equality implications

- 3.9 The Procurement Act 2023 integrates and builds upon existing equality obligations while introducing new mechanisms to promote inclusive procurement practices. Key provisions include:
- Integration with Equality Act 2010
 - Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) remains binding, requiring contracting authorities to advance equality and eliminate discrimination in procurement decisions
 - Amendments to the Equality Act 2010 explicitly reference the Procurement Act, ensuring alignment between procurement processes and equality objectives.
 - Social Value and Public Benefit Mandate require public sector buyers to consider the economic, social, and environmental impact of services they procure beyond just price and quality
 - Contracting authorities must now prioritize maximizing public benefit, which includes considering equality outcomes such as:
 - Reducing socioeconomic disparities.
 - Promoting workforce diversity in supplier chains.
 - The "most advantageous tender" (MAT) criterion replaces the previous MEAT approach, allowing non-financial factors (e.g., diversity initiatives) to determine contract awards.

Procurement implications

- 3.10 A business case for each procurement project will be developed and will consider the most appropriate procurement route in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the Procurement Act, and the objectives of the National Public Procurement Policy Statement.

The new regulations require greater consideration of broader outcomes, including the use of Lots to widen competition and the publication of 17 statutory notices to ensure transparency. This includes the new preliminary

market engagement notices, to allow the market to help shape the procurement route for each contract.

Workforce implications

3.11 Workforce implications will be considered upon the letting of each contract.

Property implications

3.12 Property implications will be considered upon the letting of each contract.

4. Background Papers

4.1 April 2025 Pipeline Report: [Cabinet Report template 2022.23](#)