

SOUTH YORKSHIRE PENSIONS AUTHORITY

4 October 2018

Report of the Clerk, Monitoring Officer and Fund Director

CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

1) Purpose of the Report

To seek approval of updated Contract Standing Orders.

2) Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- a) Approve the revised Contract Standing Orders at Appendix A for immediate inclusion in the Authority's constitution**
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3) Background Information

- 3.1 The Authority's Contract Standing Orders were last reviewed in 2016 although there has been no fundamental review since 2006. Recent procurement exercises have identified some deficiencies in the standing orders, in particular the fact that they do not accommodate recent regulations requiring the use of electronic tendering. Consequently officers have sought advice from Barnsley MBC's procurement service in undertaking a comprehensive update of the standing orders as part of a wider piece of work to update the authority's procurement arrangements in line with best practice across the public sector.
- 3.2 A revised set of Contract Standing Orders is set out at Appendix A for approval. These fully incorporate e-procurement as the standard means by which the Authority will operate, and in addition to developing these rules the Authority has signed up to Yortender the regional procurement portal to facilitate this.
- 3.3 The revised rules follow the broad framework of the previous rules, but provide more detailed guidance for those initiating or leading specific procurements as a means of reducing the risk of non-compliance with the wider regulatory framework.
- 3.4 Further work is being done with Barnsley MBC's procurement team to finalise a complete contract register, which will be published on the

Authority's website and to identify a procurement plan which will put in place contractual arrangements, as far as possible through participation in appropriate framework arrangements, in a wider range of areas than is currently the case. In the short term this may mean that approval is required for a number of waivers in order to regularise current arrangements, until a new procurement can take place.

4) Implications and risks

- Financial – Approval of these Contract Standing Orders in and of itself does not carry a financial implication. However, they are designed to ensure that the Authority can demonstrate transparently that it has achieved best value through its procurement arrangements.
- Legal – The revised Contract Standing Orders ensure the Authority is operating in line with the relevant legislative frameworks.
- Diversity – There are no immediate diversity issues.
- Risk – Comprehensively updating Contract Standing Orders to ensure they comply with all aspects of the public sector procurement rules reduces the risk of challenge to procurements undertaken by the Authority and will ensure that the organisation operates appropriately and transparently in this area which in itself reduces risk.

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at the offices of the Authority in Barnsley.