

Quarterly Update – January 2021

Dear Suppliers,

We would like to start by wishing you, your colleagues and your families a very Happy New Year and of course a big thank you for all your support throughout a very challenging 2020. Unfortunately, the new year has started in much the same way as we experienced throughout 2020, with a government lockdown announced on the 4th January and likely to last until at least the middle of February. However, with 3 vaccines now approved for use in the UK and the vaccination programme moving at record speed there are grounds for optimism in 2021.

COVID-19

Many local businesses continue to be severely impacted by COVID-19. The link here; [Coronavirus updates for suppliers - Cornwall Council](#) takes you to the Cornwall Business Support Package that may be available to businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. The booklet sets out the proposed offer under each of the elements of the business support framework, this will be supported by a combination of Cornwall Council and Government funding and has been brought together into a comprehensive package. It will continue to be updated at regular intervals as changes are made.

Further guidance to grants available to business can be found via the link below. This page is consistently being updated so please be aware of any future amendments.

[Business Support Grants - Cornwall Council](#)

Please click the links above to review what support is available

Brexit

The Brexit transition period has ended with a free trade agreement (FTA), with the negotiations having concluded on 24 December. The FTA will now apply provisionally until the European Parliament approves it. The main purpose of the deal is to allow the UK to leave the EU Single Market and Customs Union while retaining tariff-free trade in goods. As was known prior to the deal, freedom of movement now ends, as does the UK involvement in most of the EU budget. The UK will continue to manage its economy under terms similar to the EU's current rules; any significant divergences may be met with tariffs being imposed. The deal covers or touches upon a range of other issues, such as access to EU funds, trade in services, travel and tourism, and farming and fisheries.

Whilst the FTA has been agreed, not all details are clear at this stage and it is important to continue to review business continuity plans and liaise with your Council contacts to ensure any unforeseen implications are considered and managed.

New procurement Portal Find a Tender Service

The Government announced that from the 1st January 2021 there will be a new portal (Find a Tender Service) which will be used to advertise over threshold public sector contract opportunities. This portal is now live and can be found here; <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/>

More information on the portal, including FAQs can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0820-introduction-of-find-a-tender>

Please review the links above, including FAQs, to familiarise yourself with the changes

Council E-Tendering and Contract Management System

The Council is implementing a new E-Tendering and Contract Management System. Whilst currently in design stage we anticipate significant benefits by aligning the sourcing cycle and contract management, standardising processes and removing inefficiencies. *Please look out for more communications about this over the coming weeks.*

Government Green Paper

As a direct result of Brexit the Government has issued a 'green paper' for consultation. The proposals in this Green Paper are intended to shape the future of public procurement in this country for many years to come.

The government's goal is to speed up and simplify our procurement processes, place value for money at their heart, and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery. The Council will be responding to this green paper and the consultation period will end on the 10th March. Please see link below;

[Green Paper: Transforming public procurement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/green-paper-transforming-public-procurement)

We will keep you updated as the consultation progresses

Modern Slavery

As you may be aware, in an effort to strengthen and future-proof the Modern Slavery Act's transparency legislation, the Government initiated a consultation process in 2019. The consultation has now closed and the Government has issued its response. This sets out a roadmap for strengthening the Act moving forward, including the areas that Modern Slavery statements must cover and extending the requirements to Public bodies (with a budget threshold of £36m or more) which will also now be required to produce a modern slavery statement for the first time. We will provide more details on this in the next quarterly update and look forward to working with our supply chain to develop the Modern Slavery

statement, demonstrating the steps we are taking here in Cornwall to contribute to eliminating the scourge of modern slavery.

Responsible Procurement Policy

Given the impact of Covid 19 it is more important than ever that we consider our communities, our local economy and the environment when making procurement decisions. We already have obligations under Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 which requires all public bodies in England and Wales to consider how the services they commission and procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area.

However given the importance of this area as we look to recovery we have now commenced a review of our Responsible Procurement Policy which will look into how we can ensure even greater focus on these values. The work has been completed with significant Member input and engagement and further updates will follow including a re-launch of our Responsible Procurement supplier pages.

A key part of this policy will be our commitment to reducing carbon emissions and we look forward to sharing ideas and innovation as we work together to tackle climate change. More on this to follow.

G7 Leaders Summit

Finally, something to really look forward to as Organisations across Cornwall have welcomed the news that the Duchy is to host the international G7 leaders' summit in June and pledge an event that will leave a lasting social and economic legacy to benefit all of Cornwall's residents.

Julian German, Leader of Cornwall Council, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the best of Cornwall and the UK on the world stage, and to build our strength and prosperity at home.

"For those reasons we are determined that this event delivers a lasting legacy for our residents, inspires our young people and shows how we can play our part in bringing the world together after the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic – and bringing together all parts of the UK together, leaving no-one and nowhere behind.

"We want a lasting legacy that maximises inward investment, translating our moment on the global stage into trade. A legacy that helps Cornwall bounce forward and make its full contribution to the country's ambitions in areas like space and satellite, floating offshore wind and other sources of clean energy, and globally significant geo-resources including lithium to power our future."

Kind Regards

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