

Quarterly Update – April 2021

Dear Suppliers,

Hope you are enjoying the warmer spring weather and managing to see a little more of your family and friends as lock down starts to slowly ease. With the longer days and the warmer sun it really does feel like things are improving and 'normality' is just around the corner. For the latest information about Coronavirus please see link below;

[Information about Coronavirus - Cornwall Council](#)

New Council Website

If you did click the above link you may have noticed our new website. This has been designed following significant feedback from residents and users and has been designed to be equally effective on mobile devices as well as being more user friendly. Over the course of the next few months we will continue to improve the content and update the links so that you have all the very latest information.

COVID-19

Many local businesses continue to be severely impacted by COVID-19. The link below will take you to the Cornwall Business Support Package that may be available to businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic;

[Coronavirus update for Suppliers](#)

The page 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.

[Support for businesses - Cornwall Council](#)

New procurement Portal Find a Tender Service

In the last quarterly communication we advised of the Government announcement 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>

Council E-Tendering and Contract Management System

Testing is currently underway for a new E-Tendering and Contract Management System. We want to ensure the new system delivers overall benefits to all users through the most effective deployment of the 3 modules which make up the system (Sourcing, Supplier Relationship Management and Contract management). This configuration and testing is likely to continue throughout April. 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 provided a response to this paper before the consultation period ended on the 10th March. The government is now analysing all feedback received.

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

Modern Slavery

In the last quarterly newsletter we advised of the Governments roadmap for strengthening the Modern Slavery 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.

Cornwall Council is committed to working with our supply chain to remove any risk of modern slavery as part of the Procurement process and through close collaboration with existing suppliers already providing services to the Council. We will continue to do this through;

- Identifying and managing Sourcing risks
- Assessing existing contracts
- Taking action when victims of modern slavery are identified
- Learning and Development

We will continue to keep you updated on this very important topic.

Elections

The Parish, Town and City Council Elections will take place on **Thursday 6 May 2021**. All seats on all of these councils in Cornwall are due for re-election. Any updates to Council priorities and policies will be communicated in the next edition.

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.

The good news is that a new Responsible Procurement Policy has now been approved.

The Council spends a significant amount of money a year on goods and services, delivered through our supply chain. It is essential that we go further and deliver wider economic, social and environmental benefits to Cornwall. In summary what the new Responsible Procurement Policy means in practice is;

From 1st April we will:-

- Where we can directly award contracts of up to 25k to Cornish Suppliers – whilst of course there may be small exceptions this will become the norm.
- Between 25k and up to threshold there will be a requirement to consider a 10% weighting for Social Value.
- We will default to 15% weighting for above threshold procurements and look to push social value further where the procurement allows never going below the 10% government policy. This is a huge step forward and reflects the Councils ambition in this area

G7 Leaders Summit

Cornwall has been chosen to host the 2021 G7 summit, which will be held in Carbis Bay between June 11-13. The event will see world leaders gather to discuss some of the most pressing challenges facing us, from climate change to tackling the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Cornwall Council is working with central government, Devon and Cornwall Police and local stakeholders to ensure the summit runs as smoothly and safely as possible, and to minimise any disruption to residents. The council is also committed to working with government to secure a lasting G7 legacy for Cornwall that truly benefits one and all.

For more information about policing and security issues, as well as potential transport disruption relating to the G7, please visit Devon and Cornwall Police's dedicated G7 website at <https://g7.devon-cornwall.police.uk/>. and keep an eye on our facebook page for live events and opportunities for Q&A

Kind Regards

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