

Item No	Referred from:	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
6A	Date:	9 September 2026
	Title of item:	Changes to the Contract Procurement Rules
To be considered alongside agenda item:		Agenda Item 9

The report considered by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting held on 9 September 2026 can be found here: [Agenda for Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on Wednesday, 9th September, 2026, 7.30 pm | North Herts Council](#)

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: That the changes to the Council's Procurement Rules detailed in this report are adopted.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) The increase in the threshold for single quotes reflects the impact of inflation and that not changing them creates additional work for Officers.
- (2) The introduction of geographical and supplier type restrictions gives the opportunity for procurements to be better aligned with policy objectives.

Audio recording – 01 hours 27 minutes 03 seconds

The Director – Resources presented the report entitled 'Changes to the Contract Procurement Rules' and advised that:

- The final decision on this would be taken by Council, but the Committee had been given the chance to review and comment on this beforehand.
- New contract procurement rules had been adopted by the Council in 2025 following the Procurement Act 2023, and minor changes had been made to these under delegated authority since.
- Major changes to the rules were proposed within the report.
- One of those changes was to increase the threshold for procurement that needed more than one quote from £10K to £25K, with the reason for this level of increase described in paragraph 8 of the report.
- Officers were encouraged to obtain multiple quotes where it was likely to provide better value for money as the need for one quote was a minimum requirement.
- Another major change was to allow below threshold procurement to be restricted to the local area and to Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs), which would align with the Go Local Policy and Contract Procurement Strategy.

Councillor Elizabeth Dennis proposed the recommendations in the report, and this was seconded by Councillor Ruth Brown.

The following Members took part in the debate:

- Councillor Ruth Brown
- Councillor Elizabeth Dennis

The following points were made as part of the debate:

- Changes to restrict below threshold procurement to SMEs and VCSEs were welcomed as this would support local suppliers and make procurement more ethical.
- Officer time would be used more appropriately on procurement from these changes.
- The proposed threshold increase was to a safe, sensible amount.

Having been proposed and seconded and, following a vote, it was:

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