

Responses to Question made at the Procurement Scrutiny Panel on 20 Oct 2021

Why we as a Council have moved away from Frameworks to the Open Tender process?

With regard to the publication of tenders, and whether we use frameworks (a preselected group of suppliers) or periodic open tenders, then we take this decision on a case-by-case basis as there is no one size that fits all circumstances. For certain commodity products, where there are multiple competitors in the marketplace, it can make sense to tender openly as we typically source such products on an infrequent basis, and in recent procurement exercises we have seen significant savings from using this open approach hence our adoption of this route.

Do we, or can we use localised solutions that involve the public, private and 3rd sector expertise? And if we don't why not...

With regard to the point on consortia procurement the Council is open to this approach and as was highlighted at the Inquiry we do work with multiple stakeholder groups across the Council to engage with all sectors including the third sector and the Council has published specific guidance on this matter (please see the attached document '*Tendering as a consortium*'). I would again draw the Panel's attention to the comment made at the supplier session praising the '*local authorities work through the social compact and its growing emphasis on cooperation around specifications which are to be sought from the third sector*' as noted in the report to the Panel on 10 November. In addition to the DANSA collaboration noted at the Panel (a third sector organisation providing transport solutions to the Authority) please see attached an additional case study linked to the green agenda of using recycled products (please see attached document '*2018030_Swansea_Council...*').

Also attached is

- Procurement Factsheet Tendering as a Consortium
- Case Study – An innovative procurement strategy