

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report of:</b>	Andrew Humble, Corporate Director of Finance
<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Councillor Nicky Walker, Executive Member for Finance
<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive
<b>Date:</b>	11 March 2026
<b>Title:</b>	Tender Pipeline 2026/27
<b>Report for:</b>	Decision
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Decision(s) will incur expenditure or savings above £250,000 and have a significant impact in two or more wards
<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Yes
<b>Why:</b>	Non-Urgent Report

#### Proposed decision(s)

That the Executive

- Approves the Middlesbrough Council tender pipeline for 2026/27.
- Approves delegation of the contract award to the relevant Director who will update their Executive Member.
- Notes that any above threshold tender with a contract value over £2million will have a Tender Pipeline Notice published in line with Procurement Act 2023.
- Notes that any above threshold tender with a contract value below £2million will be published on the Council's website only.
- Notes that below threshold quotations, direct awards and framework call offs will not be published as they are closed competition opportunities.

### **Executive summary**

To seek Executive approval of the Middlesbrough Council tender pipeline for 2026/27, which is used to provide the market with an understanding of the potential future open procurement activity the Council may undertake in the next 12-18 months. This includes the delegation of responsibility for the contract award to the relevant Director who will update their Executive Member.

Above threshold tenders that have a contract value over £2million will have a formal Tender Pipeline Notice published in line with the Procurement Act 2023 requirements.

Above threshold tenders that has a value below £2million will be published on the Council's website page only.

Below threshold quotations, direct awards or framework call off will not be published as these are closed opportunities.

The recommendation is proposed as it allows strong governance arrangements for procurement activity carried out by the Council and will ensure the Council are compliant with the new Procurement Act 2023. The only other option would be to not have a tender pipeline which is not something the Council would be supportive of. The implications of the recommendations have been considered by the appropriate officers of the Council and are set out in the main body of the report.

## 1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions

1.1 To seek Executive approval of Middlesbrough Council’s tender pipeline for 2026/27 and agree delegation of the contract award to the relevant Director who will update their Executive Member.

Our ambitions	Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	Aims within this ambition are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- stimulate the local market where possible ensuring funding is spent locally.</li> </ul>
<b>A healthy Place</b>	Aims within this ambition are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support the Council to procure services that will improve the health outcomes of Middlesbrough residents.</li> </ul>
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	Aims within this ambition are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support the Council to procure services that will make our communities safer and more resilient as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Delivering best value</b>	Aims within this ambition are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensure robust and effective procurement governance.</li> </ul>

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Executive

- Approves delegation of the contract award to the relevant Director who will update their Executive Member.
- Notes that any above threshold tender with a contract value of £2million or more will have a Tender Pipeline Notice published in line with Procurement Act 2023.
- Notes that any above threshold tender with a contract value below £2million will be published on the Council’s website only.
- Notes that below threshold quotations, direct awards and framework call offs will not be published as they are closed competition opportunities.

## 3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 To continue to have strong governance arrangements in place for procurement activity carried out by the Council.

3.2 To be compliant with the Procurement Act 2023.

## 4. Background and relevant information

4.1 For clarity this report is not the Corporate Procurement Strategy and that issues such as social value are included in that Strategy. A tender pipeline is used to provide the market with an understanding of the potential future open procurement activity the Council may undertake in the next 12-18 months.

4.2 The new Procurement Act 2023 requires the Council to formally publish tender pipeline notices for any procurement where the contract value is over £2million. As there are limited contracts that will meet that criteria then the Council will continue to publish open procurement opportunities on its own website.

4.3 The Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy 2024 - 2026 sets out the strategic direction for the implementation of the Contract Procedure Rules, which are the regulatory framework for all staff to follow in respect of purchasing goods, services and works regardless of value.

4.4 The Strategy supports the aims and priorities of the Council. It sets out how the Council will:

- Strive to make procurement easier for suppliers and the Council alike
- Challenge and drive value for money from all procurement activity.
- Maximise innovation, sustainability, and collaboration in our procurement activities to support the Council's strategic objectives
- Ensure social value and local return is at the heart of our procurement opportunities
- Continue to increase the visibility of our tender opportunities to our local and SME suppliers
- Make the best use of local, sub-regional, regional and national collaborative arrangements where significant benefits for Middlesbrough can be evidenced.

4.5 Within that Corporate Procurement Strategy, a tender pipeline is used to provide the market with an understanding of the potential future open procurement activity the Council may undertake in the next 12 months and increases the visibility of tender opportunities.

4.6 The tender pipeline may be of particular benefit to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and voluntary, community and social enterprises as it provides them time to plan for future work, ensuring a competitive and diverse market.

4.7 Middlesbrough Council's tender pipeline for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027 has been developed as part of our governance processes. This report seeks Executive approval for the planned procurement activity and delegates authority for the contract award to the relevant Director who will then update their Executive Member.

4.8 In order to be transparent, the pipeline includes all known procurement activity and not just contracts over the Key Decision threshold, please note this means that not all of these opportunities will be on the publicly published as not all opportunities are available to the full market.

4.9 The Middlesbrough Council tender pipeline for 2025/26 had 119 procurements proposed and below is an update on progress:

- 60 – Contracts have been awarded
- 24 – procurement is in progress
- 9 – did not progress as no longer needed
- 25 – procurements have been delayed and will now be published in 26/27 pipeline
- 1 – duplication on the pipeline

4.10 The tender pipeline will be a live record which will be maintained by the Commissioning and Procurement Team and will be available for the supplier market to view on the Council website and via the Central Digital Platform if a Tender Pipeline Notice is required.

4.11 Any new procurement with a contract value of £250,000 or more identified during the year will require the appropriate Executive approval for it to be progressed. This should be minimal, as all known procurements are captured within the pipeline work programme, however, this may occur if new funding is made available, i.e. through grant income

**5. Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

5.1 As the tender pipeline activity can potentially affect every ward this section is not appropriate.

**6. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

6.1 Do nothing but this is not an option as this would not support strong governance or allow us to be compliant with the upcoming new Procurement Act requirements to publish a tender pipeline.

**7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)**

Topic	Impact
Financial (including procurement and Social Value)	<p>Activity within the procurement pipeline work programme will be progressed in accordance with the Contract Procedure rules as detailed in the Council’s Constitution and in line with Procurement Act 2023 requirements and Public Contract Regulations 2015 where applicable. All activity within the procurement pipeline is known activity that is factored within service area budgets, or funding sources have been agreed.</p> <p>This pipeline report does not provide any additional pressures to the budgetary position.</p> <p>Social value is considered and included in all our tenders and is presently bespoke to each individual tender.</p> <p>Middlesbrough Council’s Social Value Charter is now part of our standard tender documentation moving forward and</p>

	bidders are required to provide their commitment to support the Council in delivering it.
Legal	This decision will enhance governance of procurement, and processes will be compliant with the authorities Contract Procedure Rules, Procurement Act 2023 and the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
Risk	In accordance with the Contract procedure rules, any procurement in excess of the Executive key decision threshold must be approved by Executive, to ensure governance is followed the pipeline report identifies all potential procurement activity for 2026/2027 and seeks approval to progress with the appropriate procurement routes. Sign off to a successful procurement and contract award is delegated to the relevant Director who will then update their Executive member.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	An Impact Assessment has been completed and found no concerns that the Tender Pipeline and delegation of responsibility could have any adverse effects, and the assessment is attached as Appendix B.
Reducing Poverty	There are no adverse effects for reducing poverty from this report.
Climate Change / Environmental	There are no adverse effects for Climate Change / Environmental from this report, however sustainability is a key factor within procurement processes.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	There are potentially positive impacts for Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers from this report in some of the tender pipeline projects for 2025/26 for Children's Services.
Data Protection	There are no data protection or GDPR implications from this report. The procurement process within the authority has embedded with it appropriate procedures for ensuring compliance with GDPR where appropriate.

**Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)**

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Tender Pipeline Notices to be published as appropriate	Interim Head of Commissioning & Procurement	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
Tender Pipeline to be published on the Council intranet	Interim Head of Commissioning & Procurement	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Appendices**

1	Appendix A - Tender Pipeline 2026/27
2	Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment
3	

**Background papers**

Body	Report title	Date

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