

Full Council

26 January 2018

Financial Regulations

For Decision

Portfolio Holder

Cllr M Roake

Senior Leadership Team Contact:

J Vaughan, Strategic Director

Report Author:

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Statutory Authority

s.151 of the Local Government Act 1972

Social Value Act 2012

Public Procurement Regulations 2015

Purpose of Report

- 1 To consider the adoption and implementation of the Dorset Councils Financial Regulations.

Recommendations

- 2 That Council agree the Financial Regulations.

Reason for Decision

- 3 Each Authority with the Dorset Councils Partnership has been operating under its own approved Financial Regulations. A review of each has been undertaken to align any differences to ensure that it meets the targets set out by Central Government.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 4 The review and development of the Financial Regulations has aligned the rules and processes across the Partnership and will ensure greater consistency of approach and efficiencies in its processes.
- 5 This work has seen improvement in the streamlining of processes including the digitalisation of paperwork with the introduction of electronically submitted and authorised contract strategies and paperless processes of submissions and opening of tenders.

- 6 Thresholds have been increased to account for larger spends, created by the three councils in the Dorset Councils Partnership, which enables Officers to undertake faster procurement processes.
- 7 Improved exemptions have been introduced to allow for greater flexibility whilst ensuring best value is still achieved.
- 8 Greater emphasis has been placed in the process to ensure that the Dorset Councils Partnership adheres to The Public Procurement Regulations which, in turn, reduces the risk of challenge through incorrect processes being undertaken.

Implications

Corporate Plan

- 9 Reflects current Corporate Plan.

Risk Management

- 10 Risk that ineffective governance arrangements will expose the council to significant financial or reputational risk and to the risk of non-compliance with statutory requirements.

Appendices

- 11 Appendix 1 – Financial Regulations

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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