

Subject:	Procurement of water and wastewater services	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	26 th November 2025
Report of:	Facilities and Safety Manager Procurement Officer	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet is requested to approve to the commencement of a fully compliant tender activity for the provision of water and wastewater services for a period of three years.
- 1.2 That delegated authority is granted to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Director of Resources and Lead Members for Environment and Corporate Services and Resources to enter into all relevant legal agreements to the most advantageous provider.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's current water and wastewater contract with Everflow expires on 7 December 2025.
- 2.2 Everflow has offered a direct renewal quote that is approximately 1% lower than current rates, equating to a potential saving of £1,000 per year.
- 2.3 The total value of a new 3-year contract is forecasted to be in the region of £250,000 - £300,000 and therefore under the terms of the Constitution, the permission of the Council's Corporate Management Team and Cabinet is required prior to expenditure.
- 2.4 The Council will acquire its new water contract via a route that is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023.
- 2.5 If no new contract is in place by 7 December, the Council will default to deemed rates, which are significantly more expensive.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council currently procures water services from Everflow under a fixed-term contract.
- 3.2 The current annual spend is approximately **£100,000**.
- 3.3 A renewal quote from Everflow offers a 1% reduction but is conditional on a 3-year contract commitment.

4. DETAILS

- 4.1 In preparation for contract renewal, the Procurement Officer engaged with framework providers to obtain competitive quotes.
- 4.2 The Council initially explored awarding the contract via a compliant framework route; however, due to the lack of economically advantageous quotes, a full open tender is now proposed.
- 4.3 Four framework providers were selected and invited to quote:
- YPO (via their water framework)
 - LASER Energy (via their water framework)
 - ESPO (Via their water framework)
 - Zenergi (broker, invited on condition of using a compliant framework)
- 4.4 Providers responded as follows:
- YPO - submitted a quote by the deadline.
 - LASER - did not respond.
 - ESPO - did not respond
 - Zenergi - confirmed they could not provide a quote under a compliant framework and were excluded.
- 4.5 The quote from YPO, who procure water services via the supplier Wave was approximately 9% higher than the Council's current expenditure on water services.
- 4.6 Everflow, being the incumbent supplier, provided a direct quote for renewal of the current contract. They are not listed on any known public sector framework.
- 4.7 As the single quote received from the framework providers was not economically advantageous, it is advisable for the Council to conduct a full compliant tender activity to ensure competition which is compliant under the Procurement Act 2023.

5. RISK

- 5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- If a new contract is not awarded before 7 December 2025, the Council will be placed on deemed rates, which are significantly higher than contracted rates. This would result in avoidable cost increases. An assessment of the impact of the cost of deemed rates would cost the council an additional £852.10 per month from the 8th December until a new contract is awarded.

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 Placing the contract with a proposed supplier following a fully compliant tender is aiming to deliver an overall saving of c 10% on current water and wastewater charges. After best endeavours to carry out a meaningful procurement process it has been necessary to switch from a competitive procedure across frameworks to a fully compliant tender process as there have been no suitable requests to participate received and in order to secure best value. The expenditure will be funded from the core revenue budget.

7. LEGAL

- 7.1 Due to the value of the contract Corporate Management Team and Cabinet are required to approve expenditure prior to purchase under the terms of the Constitution.
- 7.2 All relevant notices under the Procurement Act will be issued following Cabinet approval.
- 7.3 All necessary legal agreements will be entered into covering the next 3 years.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 To ensure compliant procurement of water and wastewater services and to secure best value.

No background papers