

17.0 Procurement

The Highland Council's [Procurement Strategy](#) states that "The purpose of public sector procurement is to secure by whatever means is most appropriate, the delivery of public services in a way which will achieve best value for the council and the public" while complying fully with the council's [Contract Standing Orders](#) document.

Procurement is an important aspect of The Highland Council's business and allows the implementation of the core principles of best value: Challenge, Consult, Compare and Compete. The Contract Standing Orders document applies to the entering into by the Council, or on its behalf, of contracts for the supply, or lease, of supplies, services and works. The purpose of these Orders is to implement within the Council the requirements of legislation and the fundamental principles of the Treaty of Rome applicable to the award of contracts.

In addition, the council has had a [Sustainable Procurement Strategy](#) in place since 2003 and in 2010 adopted the [Scottish Government's Sustainable Procurement Self Assessment Framework](#). This ensures that The Highland Council achieves the aspirations set out in its [Corporate Plan](#) with regards to complying with best practice in procurement sustainability.