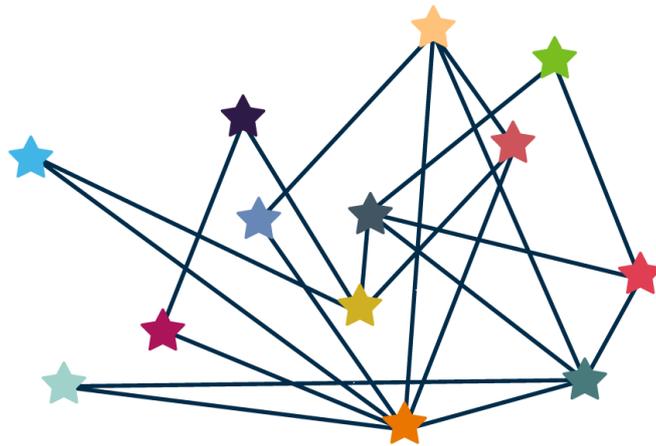


ULT

Procurement and Tendering Policy



UTTOXETER
LEARNING TRUST
INSPIRED TEACHING
INSPIRING CHILDREN

Approved: Spring Term 2020
Due for review: Spring Term 2023

UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST

PROCUREMENT & TENDERING POLICY

Version and Date	Action/Notes	
1.0	April 2017	Policy drafted by CEO
2.0		Policy approved by ULT Finance Committee
3.0	July 2018	Policy amended by CFO and presented to ULT Finance Committee for approval
4.0	January 2020	Policy amended by CFO and presented to ULT Finance Committee for approval

QUOTATION AND TENDERING

The minimum required numbers of tenders or quotations from appropriate contractors for a given estimated value of contract are:

- Orders of £1,000 and below – consideration to be given to at least 2 alternative suppliers wherever possible and evidence attached to requisition order or research and if any quotes have been sought.
- Above £1,000 and up to £2,500 – at least two written or emailed quotes should be obtained for all orders to identify the best source of the goods and services. These should be recorded on or attached to the requisition forms.
- Above £2,500 (£5,000 for works) and up to £15,000, three written quotations;
- Above £15,000 and up to £50,000, three formal quotations to be submitted in writing by a specified date and time and based on a written specification and evaluation criteria;
- Above £50,000 and up to EU thresholds - Goods or services ordered with a value over £50,000 or for a series of contracts in which the total exceeds £50,000 must be subject to formal tendering procedures.

Over EU thresholds, five tenders.

The values are for single items or groups of items, which must not be disaggregated artificially.

The sterling equivalents of EU thresholds (net of VAT) are £189,330 from 31/12/19 for supplies and Part A services and £4,733,252 from 31/12/19 for works.

For tenders expected to exceed EU thresholds, advertisements must also be placed in OJEU (the Official Journal of the European Union) and must follow EU procurement requirements with particular regard to be given to the timescale for such tenders.

PROCEDURES

All purchases with a value greater than £50,000 must be put out to formal tender. The following procedures must be followed in such circumstances:

1. A specification will be prepared, authorised by the chair of the relevant committee and CFO and sent to at least three suppliers. It is anticipated that for any major building works of a value greater than £50,000 the services of an architect would be engaged to deal with the handling of specifications and suitability to tender.

2. Where appropriate, the suppliers invited to tender should be drawn from an approved list **or** from those agreed with the architect. Otherwise, invitations to submit tenders will be advertised in local newspapers and trade journals if appropriate. The invitations to tender will include:
 - (a) an introduction/background to the project;
 - (b) the scope and objectives of the project;
 - (c) any technical requirements;
 - (d) implementation details for the project;
 - (e) the terms and conditions of the tender; and
 - (f) the form and date of response to the academy, or in the case of building works, to the architect or quantity surveyor.
3. All replies, if to the school, should be addressed to the CFO in a plain sealed envelope marked 'Tender' to reach him/her by a specified date. All replies must be kept sealed until that date and passed to the chair of the relevant committee.
4. All tenders will be opened at the same time and details of the contractor, quotation and any other details recorded at the time of opening,
5. No contractor will be allowed to amend the tender after the time fixed for receipt.
6. The CFO will open a separate correspondence file for each tender which will contain copies of all correspondence or other relevant information.
7. For purchases up to £50,000, provided the expenditure is included in the budget, the decision as to which tender to accept will be taken by the CFO in consultation with the CEO and a trustee/LGB member.
8. For purchases exceeding £50,000, provided the expenditure has been budgeted for, a decision will be recommended by the ULT Finance Committee. The decision will need to be ratified by the ULT Board.
9. Where expenditure is not included in the budget or anticipated expenditure exceeds the budget allocation, the decision as to which tender to accept will be taken by the ULT Finance Committee, in line with their terms of reference and then ratified by the ULT Board.
10. The reasons for accepting a particular tender must be documented, especially if it is decided to accept other than the lowest tender. All decisions must be reported to the ULT Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

The following points will be considered when deciding which tender to accept:

1. The overall price and the individual items or services which make up that price.
2. Whether there are any 'hidden' costs; that is additional costs which the academy will have to incur to obtain a satisfactory product.
3. Whether there is scope for negotiation, while being fair to all tenderers.
4. The qualifications and experience of the supplier, including membership of professional associations.
5. Compliance with the technical requirements laid down by the ULT.

6. Whether it is possible to obtain certificates of quantity.
7. The supplier's own quality control procedure; pre-sales demonstrations, after sales service and, for building works, a six-month defects period and insurance guarantees.
8. The financial status of the supplier.
9. References from other establishments.
10. Understanding & compliance with Health & safety, CDM regulations and Child Protection issues related to working on a school site

In the case of building works, where the tendering process is being carried out by the architect or quantity surveyor, they will be responsible for checking the documents of the lowest tender before making a recommendation to the academy.

Once a tender is accepted an order should be issued immediately to the supplier in the normal way.

The successful contractor should be informed that the school is a NON-SMOKING site

The ULT Funding Agreement should be considered when applying this policy

This Policy will be reviewed by the ULT Finance Committee on a 3-yearly cycle and must be signed by the Chair of Trustees.

Policy Reviewed:	January 2020
Next Review:	January 2023