

	Meeting (No)	Full Council (5)
	Date	4th October 2022
	REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS & FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY, STANDING ORDERS FOR CONTRACTS & PROCUREMENT POLICY FC5/81.1	

Background

The Council normally undertake a light touch review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations annually, however a more fundamental review becomes necessary less frequently, very often due to legislative changes. Such a review is now appropriate because of Brexit and the associated changes to the public procurement rules as well as recommendations from ChALC in the Situation Report.

I have worked with Pete Cooper and the RFO, to review these documents and align them with three new documents which Council decided on when accepting the recommendations of the Situation Analysis Report. We have taken the opportunity not only to amend the procurement sections but to update other sections where necessary in accordance with NALC guidance whilst continuing to tailor them to the needs of Neston Town Council.

The recommended changes to each revised draft document are set out in red so that members can readily identify them.

Standing Orders

The Council's Standing Orders were last reviewed in May 2021 based on the NALC 2018 model. NALC have now issued a further updated model (2022) which reflects the changes to procurement rules and links to their specific guidance on procurement. In addition, a number of minor changes are recommended for clarification or simplification purposes.

Standing Orders for Contracts

Standing Orders for Contracts were recommended in the Situation Analysis Report. The recommended draft reflects the revised procurement rules and is aligned with Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. The Council is not likely in the foreseeable future to have contracts which exceed the thresholds and therefore require the more complex rules to be applied.

Financial Regulations

NALC have not updated its model Regulations since 2019 and so the draft has been amended in accordance with their procurement guidance along with other updates and correction of the errors identified in the current Regulations adopted in May 2021.

Treasury Management Policy

This document will set out the Council's policies on treasury management, investment and borrowing. It will be complimentary to Medium Term Financial Plan and aligns with the Financial Regulations.

Procurement Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to provide additional guidance on the factors that will be taken into account when purchasing goods and services.

Recommendations:

1. To adopt the recommended revised Standing Orders as set out in the draft.
2. To adopt the recommended Standing Orders for Contracts as set out in the draft.
3. To adopt the recommended revised Financial Regulations as set out in the draft.
4. To adopt the recommended Treasury Management Policy as set out in the draft.
5. To adopt the recommended Procurement Policy as set out in the draft.

Drafts are tabled in the agenda items;

1. Standing Orders – FC5/81.1a
2. Standing Orders for Contracts – FC5/81.1b
3. Financial Regulations – FC5/81.1c
4. Treasury Management Policy – FC5/81.1d
5. Procurement Policy – FC5/81.1e

A Kunaj – Council Manager