

**REVISED CONTRACT STANDING ORDER C13 (APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS)**

- (1) It shall be a condition of the appointment of any architect, engineer, quantity surveyor or other consultant (not being an officer of the Council) who is to be responsible to the Council for the supervision of a contract on its behalf, that in relation to that contract there shall be compliance with the requirements of these Standing Orders relating to contracts as though the Consultant was a Chief Officer. The Council's standard forms of appointment for consultants shall apply in all cases unless the Chief of Legal, Administration and Estates Officer directs otherwise. These are set out on the Council's intranet.
- (2) The engagement of consultants shall be in accordance with Standing Orders C3 (Contracts not Exceeding £25,000), C4 (Contracts Exceeding £25,000 but not Exceeding £50,000), C5 (Contracts Exceeding £50,000), C6 (Restricted Tendering), C7 (Ad Hoc List - Contracts over £2 million), C8 (Open Tendering), C9 (Negotiated Tendering - Contracts over £50,000) or C11 (Serial Contracts), dependant on the estimated amount of the fees and disbursements to be paid to them.
- (3) **The procurement of consultants as defined in paragraph (5) below shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (2) above if appointments are sought and made through the Essex Procurement Hub or the Capita system. In the event that the Procurement Hub and the Capita system cannot secure a suitable appointment, paragraph (2) above will apply.**
- (4) The appointment of any consultant to the Council in respect of duties performed or services rendered on projects with an estimated or potential scheme value in excess of £250,000 shall be under seal. The appropriate Chief Officer may however, require that any contract in respect of a scheme of less than £250,000 in value or amount shall be under seal if it is considered that this would be in the Council's best interests.
- (5) **For the purposes of this Contract Standing Order, "consultant" is defined as an appointment of a non-established person (ie not employed by the Council or included on the Council's payroll or covering an establishment post) which is procured directly, through a company or similar commercial undertaking or through an agency (and engaged to perform a specific task over a predetermined period).**
- (6) **Any appointment which does not meet the definition of consultant shall be deemed to be an appointment of a temporary member of staff, being a person included on the Council's staffing establishment and payroll, whether procured directly, through a company, or similar commercial undertaking or through an agency. Such a temporary appointment shall be deemed to be for the purpose of covering establishment posts within the Council. Such appointments shall be made by the relevant chief officer under delegated authority subject to the following conditions:**
- (a) **appointments being funded from the existing salary budget for the service or Directorate concerned;**

- (b) appointments being made at a salary within the appropriate salary scale for the post being covered;
  - (c) delegated authority being exercisable by the relevant chief officer within a salary level up to 20% above the highest scale point in the salary scale concerned;
  - (d) such temporary appointments being made for no more than six months.
- (7) The engagement of Counsel (or similar legal adviser) is exempted from the requirement to place orders through the Essex Procurement Hub or the Capita system but the Director of Corporate Support Services is required to demonstrate value for money has been obtained provided that the nature of the legal advice concerned makes competitive arrangements realistic.