



Blaenavon Town Council

Financial Regulations

2024/25

(Reviewed April 2024)

Index

	Page
1. GENERAL	2
2. ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)	5
3. ANNUAL ESTIMATES (BUDGET) AND FORWARD PLANNING	6
4. BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND	7
5. BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS	8
6. INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MAKING OF PAYMENTS9
7. PAYMENT OF SALARIES	11
8. LOANS AND INVESTMENTS	11
9. INCOME	12
10. ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES	13
11. CONTRACTS	13
12. PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS	14
13. STORES AND EQUIPMENT	15
14. ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES	15
15. INSURANCE	16
16. CHARITIES	16
17. RISK MANAGEMENT	16
18. SUSPENSION AND REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS	16

GENERAL

- 1.1. These financial regulations govern the conduct of financial management by the Council and may only be amended or varied by resolution of the Council. Financial regulations are one of the Council's three governing policy documents providing procedural guidance for members and officers.

Financial regulations must be observed in conjunction with the Council's standing orders and any individual financial regulations relating to contracts.

- 1.2. The Council is responsible in law for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective, and that the Council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.

- 1.3. The Council's accounting control systems must include measures:

- For the timely production of accounts.
- That provide for the safe and efficient safeguarding of public money.
- To prevent and detect inaccuracy and fraud; and
- Identifying the duties of officers.

- 1.4. These financial regulations demonstrate how the Council meets these responsibilities and requirements.

- 1.5. At least once a year, prior to approving the Annual Governance Statement, the Council must review the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices.

- 1.6. Deliberate or wilful breach of these Regulations by an employee may give rise to disciplinary proceedings.

- 1.7. Members of Council are expected to follow the instructions within these Regulations and not entice employees to breach them. Failure to follow instructions within these Regulations brings the office of Councillor into disrepute and may represent a breach in the Councillor's Code of Conduct

- 1.8. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) holds a statutory office to be appointed by the Council. **The Chief Officer has been appointed as RFO for this Council and these regulations will apply accordingly.**

- 1.9. **The RFO.**

- Acts under the policy direction of the Council.
- Administers the Council's financial affairs in accordance with all Acts, Regulations, and proper practices.
- Determines on behalf of the Council its accounting records and accounting control systems.

- Ensures the accounting control systems are observed.
- Maintains the accounting records of the Council up to date in accordance with proper practices.
- Assists the Council to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of its resources; and
- Produces financial management information as required by the Council.

1.10. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall be sufficient to show and explain the Council's transactions and to enable the RFO to ensure that any income and expenditure account and statement of balances, or record of receipts and payments comply with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations.

Also, to prepare additional or management information, as and when required by the council

1.11. The accounting records determined by the RFO shall contain:

- Entries from day to day of all sums of money received and expended by the Council and the matters to which the income and expenditure or receipts and payments account relate.
- A record of the assets and liabilities of the Council; and
- Wherever relevant, a record of the Council's income and expenditure in relation to claims made, or to be made, for any contribution, grant, or subsidy.

1.12. The accounting control systems determined by the RFO shall include:

- Procedures to ensure that the financial transactions of the Council are recorded as soon as reasonably practicable and as accurately and reasonably as possible.
- Procedures to enable the prevention and detection of inaccuracies and fraud and the ability to reconstruct any lost records.
- Identification of the duties of officers dealing with financial transactions and division of responsibilities of those officers in relation to significant transactions.
- Procedures to ensure that uncollectable amounts, including any bad debts are not submitted to the Council for approval to be written off except with the approval of the RFO and that the approvals are shown in the accounting records; and
- Measures to ensure that risk is effectively managed.

1.13. The Council is not empowered by these Regulations or otherwise to delegate certain specified decisions. Any decision regarding:

- Setting the final budget or the precept (Council Tax Requirement).

- Approving accounting statements.
- Approving an annual governance statement.
- Borrowing.
- Writing off bad debts.
- Addressing recommendations in any report from the internal or external auditors, shall be a matter for the full Council only.

1.14. In addition, the Council must:

- Determine and keep under regular review the bank mandate for all Council bank accounts.
- Approve any grant or a single commitment more than **£500**; and
- In respect of the annual salary for any employee have regard to recommendations about annual salaries of employees made by the relevant committee in accordance with its terms of reference.

1.15. In these financial regulations, references to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations or 'the regulations' shall mean the regulations issued under the provisions of section 39 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, or any superseding legislation, and then in force unless otherwise specified.

In these financial regulations the term 'proper practice' or 'proper practices' shall refer to guidance issued in [Governance and Accountability for Local Councils in Wales - A Practitioners' Guide 2019](#) issued by the Joint practitioners Advisory Group (JPAG), available from the websites of One Voice Wales and SLCC as appropriate.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL)

- 1.16.** All accounting procedures and financial records of the Council shall be determined by the RFO in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations, appropriate guidance, and proper practices.
- 1.17.** On a regular basis, at least once in each quarter, and at each fiscal year end, a member other than the Chairman **or a cheque signatory** shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations **for all accounts** produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the reconciliations and the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the Council Finance Committee
- 1.18.** The RFO shall complete the annual statement of accounts, annual report, and any related documents of the Council contained in the Annual Return as soon as practicable after the end of the fiscal year and having certified the accounts, shall submit them and report thereon to the Council within the timescales set by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations.
- 1.19.** The Council shall ensure that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records, and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices. Any officer or member of the Council shall make available such documents and records as appear to the Council to be necessary for the audit and shall, as directed by the Council, supply the RFO, internal auditor, or external auditor with such information and explanation as the Council considers necessary for that purpose.
- 1.20.** The internal auditor shall be appointed by and shall conduct the work in relation to internal controls required by the Council in accordance with proper practices.
- 1.21.** The internal auditor shall:
- Be competent and independent of the financial operations of the Council.
 - Report to Council in writing, or in person, on a regular basis with a minimum of one annual written report during each fiscal year.
 - To demonstrate competence, objectivity, and independence, be free from any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, including those arising from family relationships; and
 - Not be involved in the financial decision making, management or control of the Council.
- 1.22.** Internal or external auditors may not under any circumstances:
- Perform any operational duties for the Council.
 - Initiate or approve accounting transactions; or
 - Direct the activities of any Council employee, except to the extent that such employees have been appropriately assigned to assist the internal auditor.

- 1.23. For the avoidance of doubt, in relation to internal audit the terms 'independent' and 'independence' shall have the same meaning as is described in proper practices.
- 1.24. The RFO shall make arrangements for the exercise of electors' rights in relation to the accounts including the opportunity to inspect the accounts, books, and receipts and display or publish any notices and statements of account required by Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, or any superseding legislation, and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations.
- 1.25. The RFO shall, without undue delay, bring to the attention of all Councillors any correspondence or report from internal or external auditors.

ANNUAL ESTIMATES (BUDGET) AND FORWARD PLANNING

- 1.26. The council shall review its three-year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments. Having regard to the forecast, it shall thereafter formulate and submit proposals for the following fiscal year not later than the end of **November** each year including any proposals for revising the forecast.
- 1.27. The RFO must each year, by no later than November, prepare detailed estimates of all receipts and payments including the use of reserves and all sources of funding for the following fiscal year in the form of a budget to be considered by the Council.
- 1.28. The Council shall consider annual budget proposals in relation to the Council's three-year forecast of revenue and capital receipts and payments including recommendations for the use of reserves and sources of funding and update the forecast accordingly.
- 1.29. The Council shall fix the precept (Council tax requirement), and relevant basic amount of Council tax to be levied for the ensuing fiscal year not later than by the end of January each year. The RFO shall issue the precept to the billing authority and shall supply each member with a copy of the approved annual budget.
- 1.30. The approved annual budget shall form the basis of financial control for the ensuing year.

BUDGETARY CONTROL AND AUTHORITY TO SPEND

1.31. Expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget. This authority is to be determined by:

- The Council for all items over **£500**
- The Chief Officer, in conjunction with Mayor of the Council, for any items below **£500**

Such authority is to be evidenced by a minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Chief Officer, and where necessary also by the appropriate Mayor.

Contracts may not be disaggregated to avoid controls imposed by these regulations.

1.32. No expenditure may be authorised that will exceed the amount provided in the revenue budget for that class of expenditure other than by resolution of the Council, or duly delegated committee. During the budget year and with the approval of Council having considered fully the implications for public services, unspent and available amounts may be moved to other budget headings or to an earmarked reserve as appropriate.

1.33. Unspent provisions in the revenue or capital budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year.

1.34. The salary budgets are to be reviewed at least annually in **November** for the following fiscal year and such review shall be evidenced by a hard copy schedule signed by the Chief Officer and the Mayor of Council. The RFO will inform the council of any changes impacting on their budget requirement for the coming year in good time.

1.35. In cases of extreme risk to the delivery of Council services, the clerk may authorise revenue expenditure on behalf of the Council which in the Chief Officer's judgement it is necessary to conduct. Such expenditure includes repair, replacement, or other work, whether or not there is any budgetary provision for the expenditure, subject to a limit of **£500**. The Chief Officer shall report such action to the Mayor as soon as possible and to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter.

1.36. No expenditure shall be authorised in relation to any capital project and no contract entered into or tender accepted involving capital expenditure unless the Council is satisfied that the necessary funds are available.

1.37. All capital works shall be administered in accordance with the Council's standing orders and financial regulations relating to contracts.

1.38. The RFO shall regularly provide the Council with a statement of receipts and payments to date under each head of the budgets, comparing actual expenditure to the appropriate date against that planned as shown in the budget. These statements are to be prepared at least at the end of each financial quarter and shall show explanations of material variances. For this purpose, "material" shall be more than **£100 or 15%** of the budget.

1.39. Changes in earmarked reserves shall be approved by Council as part of the budgetary control process.

1.40. All expenditure relating to Council projects must comply with the terms and conditions of any grant funding and will be cognisant of the Council's financial regulations and Standing orders.

- 1.41. No expenditure shall be authorised relating to any project as part of the Community Wellbeing Project Funds without the prior consultation and approval of the RFO.
- 1.42. The RFO will consider and authorise project expenditure upon receipt of an internal purchase order relating to any expenditure for the Community Wellbeing Project Funds.
- 1.43. Project expenditure up to £500 can be authorised by the RFO in conjunction with the Mayor.
- 1.44. Project expenditure over £500 will be brought to the attention of the Council for a determination to authorise the identified expenditure.

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS AND AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

- 1.45. The Council's banking arrangements, including the bank mandate, shall be made by the RFO, and approved by the Council; banking arrangements may not be delegated to a committee. They shall be regularly reviewed for safety and efficiency. **The Council shall seek credit references in respect of members or employees who act as signatories.**
- 1.46. The RFO shall prepare a monthly financial update including a schedule of expenditure forming part of the Agenda for the Meeting and present the schedule to Council for their information and approval.

Personal payments (including salaries, wages, expenses, and any payment made in relation to the termination of a contract of employment) may be summarised to remove public access to any personal information.
- 1.47. All invoices for payment shall be examined, verified, and certified by the RFO to confirm that the work, goods, or services to which each invoice relates has been received, conducted, examined, and represents expenditure previously approved by the Council.
- 1.48. The RFO shall examine invoices for arithmetical accuracy and analyse them to the appropriate expenditure heading. The RFO shall take all steps to pay all invoices submitted
- 1.49. The RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise the payment of items only in the following circumstances:
 - a) If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of Council, where the RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.
 - b) An expenditure item authorised under (continuing contracts and obligations) provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council or
 - c) Fund transfers within the Councils banking arrangements up to the sum of **£10,000**, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council. This will be in conjunction with the Mayor of the council.
- 1.50. For each financial year the RFO shall draw up a list of due payments which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation (such as but not exclusively, Salaries, PAYE and NI, Superannuation Fund and regular maintenance contracts

and the like for which Council may authorise payment for the year, **(Budgetary Controls)** are adhered to, provided also that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of Council.

- 1.51. A record of regular payments made under shall be drawn up and be signed by two members on each occasion when payment is authorised - thus controlling the risk of duplicated payments being authorised and / or made.
- 1.52. In respect of grants, the council shall approve expenditure within any limits set by Council and in accordance with any policy statement approved by Council. Any Revenue or Capital Grant more than £5,000 shall before payment, be subject to ratification by resolution of the Council.
- 1.53. Members are subject to the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the Council and shall comply with the Code and Standing Orders when a decision to authorise or instruct payment is made in respect of a matter in which they have a disclosable or other interest unless a dispensation has been granted.
- 1.54. The Council will aim to rotate the duties of members in these Regulations so that onerous duties are shared out as evenly as possible over time.
- 1.55. Any changes in the recorded details of suppliers, such as bank account records, shall be approved in writing by the Mayor.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MAKING OF PAYMENTS

- 1.56. The Council will make safe and efficient arrangements for the making of its payments.
- 1.57. Following authorisation, by the Council, the RFO shall ensure that a payment shall be made.
- 1.58. All payments shall be made by cheque or other instructions to the Council's bankers, or otherwise, in accordance with a resolution of Council.
- 1.59. Cheques or BACS payments drawn on the bank account as presented to Council shall be signed by two authorised signatories of the Council in, accordance with a resolution instructing that payment. A member who is a bank signatory, having a connection by virtue of family or business relationships with the beneficiary of a payment, should not, under normal circumstances, be a signatory to the payment in question.
- 1.60. Cheques or orders for payment together with the relevant invoices shall be presented to any **two of the four** authorised signatories of the council. There is no requirement to wait until the next available council meeting.
- 1.61. If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone, and water) and any National Non-Domestic Rates may be made by variable direct debit provided that the instructions are signed by two members and any payments are reported to Council as made. The approval of the use of a variable direct debit shall be renewed by resolution of the Council at least **every two years**.
- 1.62. If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for certain items (principally salaries) may be made by BACS, provided that the instructions are signed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as payroll authorised signatories. This is administered by TCBC payroll department.

- 1.63.** If thought appropriate by the Council, payment for certain items may be made by internet banking transfer provided evidence is retained showing which members approved the payment. The Chief Officer will email invoices to any two bank signatories as per the agreed internet banking mandate for electronic authorisation. Once the authorisation has been approved by the two signatories, payment will be made via internet banking. All monthly electronic authorisations will be retained on the Council's electronic systems. All BACS payments will be presented to members at the monthly Finance meeting.
- 1.64.** Where a computer requires use of a personal identification number (PIN) or other password(s), for access to the Council's records on that computer, a note shall be made of the PIN and Passwords and shall be handed to and retained by the Mayor of Council in a sealed dated envelope.
- This envelope may not be opened other than in the presence of two other Councillors. After the envelope has been opened, in any circumstances, the PIN and / or passwords shall be changed as soon as practicable. The fact that the sealed envelope has been opened, in whatever circumstances, shall be reported to all members immediately and formally to the next available meeting of the Council.
- 1.65.** No employee or Councillor shall disclose any PIN or password, relevant to the working of the Council or its bank accounts, to any person not authorised in writing by the Council.
- 1.66.** Regular back-up copies of the records on any computer shall be made and shall be stored securely away from the computer in question, and preferably off site.
- 1.67.** The Council, and any members using computers for the Council's financial business, shall ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware and security system, software with automatic updates, together with a high level of security, is used.
- 1.68.** Where internet banking arrangements are made with any bank, the Chief Officer [RFO] shall be appointed as the Service Administrator. The bank mandate approved by the Council shall identify **four** Councillors who will be authorised to approve transactions on those accounts. The bank mandate will clearly state the amounts of payments that can be instructed using the Service Administrator alone, or by the Service Administrator with a stated number of approvals.
- 1.69.** Access to any internet banking accounts will be directly to the access page (which may be saved under "favourites"), and not through a search engine or e-mail link. Remembered or saved passwords facilities must not be used on any computer used for Council banking work. Breach of this Regulation will be treated as a very serious matter under these regulations.
- 1.70.** Changes to account details for suppliers, which are used for internet banking may only be changed on written hard copy notification by the supplier and supported by hard copy authority for change signed by two authorised signatories.
- 1.71.** Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Chief Officer, or in their absence the Assistant Chief Officer and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of **£500** unless authorised by Council in writing before any order is placed.
- 1.72.** Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the Council will be specifically restricted to use by the Chief Officer, or in their absence the Assistant Chief Officer and shall be subject to automatic payment in full at each month-end. Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used under any circumstances.

- 1.73.** The RFO shall maintain a petty cash float of **£50** for operational and other expenses. Receipts for payments made from petty cash shall be kept showing the payment.
- a) Income received must not be paid into the petty cash float but must be separately banked
 - b) Payments to maintain the petty cash float shall be shown separately on the schedule of payments presented to the Council monthly.
 - c) Single petty cash transactions will have a maximum value of **£30**

PAYMENT OF SALARIES

- 1.74.** As an employer, the Council shall make arrangements to meet fully the statutory requirements placed on all employers by PAYE and National Insurance legislation. The payment of all salaries shall be made in accordance with payroll records and the rules of PAYE and National Insurance currently operating, and salary rates shall be as agreed by Council.
- 1.75.** Payment of salaries and payment of deductions from salary such as may be required to be made for tax, national insurance, and pension contributions, or similar statutory or discretionary deductions must be made in accordance with the payroll records and on the appropriate dates stipulated in employment contracts, provided that each payment is reported to the next available Council finance meeting.
- 1.76.** No changes shall be made to any employee's pay, or terms and conditions of employment without the prior consent of the Council.
- 1.77.** Each payment to employees of net salary and to the appropriate creditor of the statutory and discretionary deductions shall be recorded confidentially. This confidential record is not open to inspection or review (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or otherwise) other than:
- By any Councillor who can demonstrate a need to know.
 - By the internal auditor.
 - By the external auditor; or
 - By any person authorised under Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, or any superseding legislation.
- 1.78.** The total of such payments in each calendar month shall be reported with all other payments as made as may be required under these Financial Regulations, to ensure that only payments due for the period have been paid.
- 1.79.** An effective system of personal performance management should be maintained by the Mayor in relation to its employees.
- 1.80.** Any termination payments shall be supported by a clear business case and reported to the Council. Termination payments shall only be authorised by Council.
- 1.81.** Before employing interim staff, the Council must consider a full business case.

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS

- 1.82. All borrowings shall be affected in the name of the Council, after obtaining any necessary borrowing approval. Any application for borrowing approval shall be approved by Council as to terms and purpose. The application for borrowing approval, and subsequent arrangements for the loan shall only be approved by full Council.
- 1.83. Any financial arrangement which does not require formal borrowing approval from the Welsh Government (such as Hire Purchase or Leasing of tangible assets) shall be subject to approval by the full Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council in respect of value for money for the proposed transaction.
- 1.84. The Council will arrange with the Council's banks and investment providers for the sending of a copy of each statement of account to the Mayor of the Council at the same time as one is issued to the Chief Officer.
- 1.85. All loans and investments shall be negotiated in the name of the Council and shall be for a set period in accordance with Council policy.
- 1.86. The Council shall consider the need for an Investment Strategy and Policy which, if drawn up, shall be in accordance with relevant regulations, proper practices, and guidance. Any Strategy and Policy shall be reviewed by the Council at least annually.
- 1.87. All investments of money under the control of the Council shall be in the name of the Council.
- 1.88. All investment certificates and other documents relating thereto shall be retained in the custody of the RFO.
- 1.89. Payments in respect of short term or long-term investments, including transfers between bank accounts held in the same bank.

INCOME

- 1.90. The collection of all sums due to the Council shall be the responsibility of and under the supervision of the RFO.
- 1.91. Particulars of all charges to be made for work done, services rendered, or goods supplied shall be agreed annually by the Council, notified to the RFO and the RFO shall be responsible for the collection of all accounts due to the Council.
- 1.92. The Council will review all fees and charges at least annually, following a report of the Chief Officer.
- 1.93. Any sums found to be irrecoverable, and any bad debts shall be reported to the Council and shall be written off in the year.
- 1.94. All sums received on behalf of the Council shall be banked intact as directed by the RFO. In all cases, all receipts shall be deposited with the Council's bankers with such frequency as the RFO considers necessary.
- 1.95. The origin of each receipt shall be entered on the paying-in slip.
- 1.96. Personal cheques shall not be cashed out of money held on behalf of the Council.

- 1.97.** The RFO shall promptly complete any VAT Return that is required. Any repayment claims due in accordance with VAT Act 1994 section 33 shall be made at least annually coinciding with the fiscal year end.
- 1.98.** Where any significant sums of cash are regularly received by the Council, the RFO shall take such steps as are agreed by the Council to ensure that more than one person is present when the cash is counted.

ORDERS FOR WORK, GOODS AND SERVICES

- 1.99.** An official purchase order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods, and services unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate. Copies of purchase orders shall be retained.
- 1.100.** Purchase orders shall be controlled by the RFO.
- 1.101.** All members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times. An officer issuing an official order shall ensure as far as reasonable and practicable that the best available terms are obtained in respect of each transaction, usually by obtaining three or more quotations or estimates from appropriate suppliers.
- 1.102.** A member may not issue an official order or make any contract on behalf of the Council.
- 1.103.** The RFO shall verify the lawful nature of any proposed purchase before the issue of any order, and in the case of new or infrequent purchases or payments, the RFO shall ensure that the statutory authority shall be reported to the meeting at which the order is approved so that the minutes can record the power being used.

CONTRACTS

- 1.104.** Procedures as to contracts are laid down as follows:
- a.** Every contract shall comply with these financial regulations, and no exceptions shall be made otherwise than in an emergency provided that this regulation need not apply to contracts which relate to items below:
- For the supply of gas, electricity, water, sewerage, and telephone services.
 - For specialist services such as are provided by legal professionals acting in disputes.
 - For work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which consist of repairs to or parts for existing machinery or equipment or plant.
For work to be executed or goods or materials to be supplied which constitute an extension of an existing contract by the Council.
 - For goods or materials proposed to be purchased which are proprietary articles and / or are only sold at a fixed price.

- b. The full requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"), as applicable, shall be followed in respect of the tendering and award of a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract which exceed thresholds in The Regulations set by the Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU (which may change from time to time).

Thresholds currently applicable are:

a. For public supply and public service contracts 209,000 Euros (£181,302)

b. For public works contracts 5,225,000 Euros (£4,551,413)

- c. When applications are made to waive financial regulations relating to contracts to enable a price to be negotiated without competition the reason shall be embodied in a recommendation to the Council.
- d. Such invitation to tender shall state the general nature of the intended contract and the Chief Officer shall obtain the necessary technical assistance to prepare a specification in appropriate cases. The invitation shall in addition state that tenders must be addressed to the Chief Officer in the ordinary course of post. Each tendering firm shall be supplied with a specifically marked envelope in which the tender is to be sealed and remain sealed until the prescribed date for opening tenders for that contract.
- e. All sealed tenders shall be opened at the same time on the prescribed date by the Chief Officer in the presence of the Mayor and two other nominated Councillors.
- f. Any invitation to tender issued under this regulation shall be subject to Standing Orders (Item 18) and shall refer to the terms of the Bribery Act 2010.
- g. When it is to enter into a contract of less than £25,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services other than such goods, materials, works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a).
The Chief Officer shall obtain three quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply) where the value is above £3,000
- h. The Council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote, or estimate.
- i. Should it occur that the Council, does not accept any tender, quote or estimate, the work is not allocated, and the Council requires further pricing, provided that the specification does not change, no person shall be permitted to submit a later tender, estimate, or quote who was present when the original decision-making process was being undertaken.

- 1.105. The Proper Officer shall maintain a register of personal interests, in respect of members.

Members should not, so far as be practicable, be involved in the award of orders, funding, donations and/or contracts with organisations or individuals in respect of which a personal interest exists, whether declared or not.

PAYMENTS UNDER CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING OR OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKS

- 1.106. Payments on account of the contract sum shall be made within the time specified in the contract by the RFO upon authorised certificates of the architect or other consultants engaged to

supervise the contract (subject to any percentage withholding as may be agreed in the particular contract).

- 1.107.** Where contracts provide for payment by instalments the RFO shall maintain a record of all such payments. In any case where it is estimated that the total cost of work conducted under a contract, excluding agreed variations, will exceed the contract sum of 5% or more a report shall be submitted to the Council.
- 1.108.** Any variation to a contract or addition to or omission from a contract must be approved by the Council and Chief Officer to the contractor in writing, the Council being informed where the final cost is likely to exceed the financial provision.

STORES AND EQUIPMENT

- 1.109.** The Chief Officer shall be responsible for the care and custody of stores and equipment under the responsibility of the council.
- 1.110.** Stocks shall be kept at the minimum levels consistent with operational requirements.
- 1.111.** The RFO shall be responsible for periodic checks of stocks and stores at least quarterly.

ASSETS, PROPERTIES AND ESTATES

- 1.112.** The Chief Officer shall make appropriate arrangements for the custody of all title deeds and Land Registry Certificates of properties held by the Council. The RFO shall ensure a record is maintained of all properties held by the Council, recording the location, extent, plan, reference, purchase details, nature of the interest, tenancies granted, rents payable and purpose for which held in accordance with Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations.
- 1.113.** No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or otherwise acquired, sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of, without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law, save where the estimated value of any one item of tangible movable property does not exceed **£250**.
- 1.114.** No real property (interests in land) shall be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of without the authority of the Council, together with any other consents required by law, in each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case **(including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate)**.
- 1.115.** No real property (interests in land) shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council in respect of valuation and surveyed condition of the property (including matters such as planning permissions and covenants) together with a proper business case **(including an adequate level of consultation with the electorate)**.
- 1.116.** No tangible moveable property shall be purchased or acquired without the authority of the full Council. In each case a report in writing shall be provided to Council with a full business case.

- 1.117. The RFO shall ensure that an appropriate and accurate Register of Assets and Investments is kept up to date. The continued existence of tangible assets shown in the register shall be verified at least annually, possibly in conjunction with a health and safety inspection of assets.

INSURANCE

- 1.118. Following the annual risk assessment, the RFO shall affect all insurances and negotiate all claims on the Council's insurers.
- 1.119. The Chief Officer shall give prompt notification to the council of all new risks, which require to be insured and of any alterations affecting existing insurances.
- 1.120. The RFO shall keep a record of all insurances effected by the Council and the property and risks covered thereby and annually review it.
- 1.121. The RFO shall be notified of any loss liability or damage or of any event likely to lead to a claim and shall report these to Council at the next available meeting.
- 1.122. All appropriate members and employees of the Council shall be included in a suitable form of security or fidelity guarantee insurance which shall cover the maximum risk exposure as determined annually by the Council,

CHARITIES

- 1.123. Where the Council is sole managing trustee of a charitable body the Clerk shall ensure that separate accounts are kept of the funds held on charitable trusts and separate financial reports made in such form as shall be appropriate, in accordance with Charity Law, or as determined by the Charity Commission. The RFO shall arrange for any audit or independent examination as may be required by Charity Law or any Governing Document.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- 1.124. The Council is responsible for putting in place arrangements for the management of risk. The Chief Officer shall prepare, for approval by the Council, risk management schedule in respect of all activities of the Council. Risk Policy statements and consequential risk management arrangements shall be reviewed by the Council at least annually.
- 1.125. When considering any new activity, the Chief Officer shall prepare a draft risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration and adoption by the Council.


SUSPENSION AND REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

1.126. It shall be the duty of the Council to review the Financial Regulations of the Council from time to time. The Chief Officer shall make arrangements to monitor changes in legislation or proper practices and shall advise the Council of any requirement for a consequential amendment to these financial regulations.

1.127. The Council may, by resolution of the Council duly notified prior to the relevant meeting of Council, suspend any part of these Financial Regulations provided that reasons for the suspension are recorded and that an assessment of the risks arising has been drawn up and presented in advance to all members of Council.

Resolved to accept the Financial Regulations submitted to the Council on the 1st of May 2024.

Signed by Mayor: 

Signed by Proper Officer: 

Date: 1st of May 2024