



PURCHASING POLICY

Policy Number:	4.2.4 (Formerly No F8.4)
Type:	Governance and Leadership – Financial Management
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995 Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996
Delegation:	DA35
Other Related Document:	

1. Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to ensure that all purchasing activities:

- demonstrate that best value for money is attained for the Town;
- are compliant with relevant legislations, including the Act and Regulations;
- are recorded in compliance with the *State Records Act 2000* and associated records management practices and procedures of the Town;
- mitigate probity risk, by establishing consistent and demonstrated processes that promotes openness, transparency, fairness and equity to all potential suppliers;
- ensure that the sustainable benefits, such as environmental, social and local economic factors are considered in the overall value for money assessment; and
- are conducted in a consistent and efficient manner across the Town and that ethical decision making is demonstrated.

2. Policy Scope

This policy will affect all staff members.

3. Policy

The Town of East Fremantle (the “**Town**”) is committed to delivering best practice in the purchasing of goods, services and works that align with the principles of transparency, probity and good governance and complies with the *Local Government Act 1995* (the “**Act**”) and Part 4 of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, (the “**Regulations**”). Procurement processes and practices to be complied with are defined within this Policy and the Town’s prescribed procurement procedures.

4. Ethics and Integrity

Code of Conduct

All officers and employees of the Town undertaking purchasing activities must have regard for the Code of Conduct requirements and shall observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity. All officers and employees of the Town must act in an honest and professional manner at all times which supports the standing of the Town.

Purchasing Principles

The following principles, standards and behaviours must be observed and enforced through all stages of the purchasing process to ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all parties:

- full accountability shall be taken for all purchasing decisions and the efficient, effective and proper expenditure of public monies based on achieving value for money;
- all purchasing practices shall comply with relevant legislation, regulations, and requirements consistent with the Town's policies and Code of Conduct;
- purchasing is to be undertaken on a competitive basis where all potential suppliers are treated impartially, honestly and consistently;
- all processes, evaluations and decisions shall be transparent, free from bias and fully documented in accordance with applicable policies, audit requirements and relevant legislation;
- any actual or perceived conflicts of interest are to be identified, disclosed and appropriately managed; and
- any information provided to the Town's by a supplier shall be treated as commercial-in-confidence and should not be released unless authorised by the supplier or relevant legislation.

5. Value for Money

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Value for money is determined when the consideration of price, risk and qualitative factors that are assessed to determine the most advantageous outcome to be achieved for the Town.

As such, purchasing decisions must be made with greater consideration than obtaining lowest price, but also to incorporate qualitative and risk factors into the decision.

Application

An assessment of the best value for money outcome for any purchasing process should consider:

- all relevant Total Costs of Ownership (TCO) and benefits including transaction costs associated with acquisition, delivery, distribution, as well as other costs such as but not limited to holding costs, consumables, deployment, maintenance and disposal;
- the technical merits of the goods or services being offered in terms of compliance with specifications, contractual terms and conditions and any relevant methods of assuring quality, including but not limited to an assessment of levels and currency of compliances, value adds offered, warranties, guarantees, repair and replacement policies, ease of inspection, ease of after sales service, ease of communications etc.

- financial viability and capacity to supply without risk of default (competency of the prospective suppliers in terms of managerial and technical capabilities and compliance history);
- a strong element of competition in the allocation of orders or the awarding of contracts. This is achieved by obtaining a sufficient number of competitive quotations wherever practicable;
- the safety requirements associated with both the product design and specification offered by suppliers and the evaluation of risk when considering purchasing goods and services from suppliers;
- purchasing of goods and services from suppliers that demonstrate sustainable benefits and good corporate social responsibility; and
- providing opportunities for businesses within the Town's boundaries to be given the opportunity to quote for providing goods and services wherever possible.

6. Purchasing Requirements

Legislative / Regulatory Requirements

The requirements that must be complied with by the Town, including purchasing thresholds and processes, are prescribed within the Regulations, this Policy and associated purchasing procedures in effect at the Town.

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Purchasing that is **\$150,000 or below in total value** (excluding GST) must be in accordance with the purchasing requirements under the relevant threshold as defined under section 7 of this Purchasing Policy.

Purchasing that **exceeds \$150,000 in total value** (excluding GST) must be put to public Tender when it is determined that a regulatory Tender exemption, as stated under section 8 of this Policy is not deemed to be suitable.

Purchasing Value Definition

Determining purchasing value is to be based on the following considerations:

1. Exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST);
2. The actual or expected value of a contract over the full contract period, including all options to extend; or the extent to which it could be reasonably expected that the Town will continue to purchase a particular category of goods, services or works and what total value is or could be reasonably expected to be purchased. A best practice suggestion is that if a purchasing threshold is reached within three years for a particular category of goods, services or works, then the purchasing requirement under the relevant threshold (including the tender threshold) must apply.
3. Must incorporate any variation to the scope of the purchase and be limited to a 10% tolerance of the original purchasing value.

Purchasing from Existing Contracts

Where the Town has an existing contract in place, it must ensure that goods and services required are purchased under these contracts to the extent that the scope of the contract allows. When planning the purchase, the Town must consult its Contracts Register in the first instance before seeking to obtain quotes and tenders on its own accord.

7. Purchasing Thresholds

The table below prescribes the purchasing process that the Town must follow, based on the purchase value:

Purchase Value Threshold	Purchasing Requirement
<p>Up to \$5,000 (exc GST)</p>	<p>Purchase directly from a supplier using a Purchasing or Corporate Credit Card issued by the Town, or obtain at least one (1) oral or written quotation from a suitable supplier, either from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Town; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program (e-Quotes) or State Government Common Use Arrangement (CUA); or • from the open market. <p>The purchasing decision is to be based upon assessment of the suppliers response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a brief outline of the specified requirement for the goods; services or works required; and • value for money criteria, not necessarily the lowest price. • The procurement decision is to be represented using the Brief Evaluation Report Template.
<p>Over \$5,001 and up to \$20,000 (exc GST)</p>	<p>Obtain at least two (2) written quotations from suppliers following a brief outlining the specified requirement, either from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Town; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program (e-Quotes) or State Government CUA; or • from the open market. <p>The purchasing decision is to be based upon assessment of the suppliers response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a written brief outline of the specified requirement for the goods; services or works required; and • value for money criteria, not necessarily the lowest price. • The procurement decision is to be represented using the Brief Evaluation Report Template.
<p>Over \$20,001 and up to \$50,000</p>	<p>Obtain at least three (3) written quotations from suppliers following a brief outlining the specified requirement, either from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Town; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government CUA; or • from the open market.
<p>Over \$50,001 and up to \$150,000 (exc GST)</p>	<p>Obtain at least three (3) written quotations from suppliers by formal invitation under a Request for Quotation, containing price and detailed specification of goods and services required. The procurement decision is to be based on pre-determined evaluation</p>

	<p>criteria that assesses all value for money considerations in accordance with the definition stated within this Policy.</p> <p>Quotations within this threshold may be obtained from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an existing panel of pre-qualified suppliers administered by the Town; or • a pre-qualified supplier on the WALGA Preferred Supply Program (e-Quotes) or State Government CUA; or • from the open market. <p>Requests for quotation from a pre-qualified panel of suppliers (whether administered by the Town through the WALGA preferred supply program or State Government CUA) are not required to be invited using a Request for Quotation form, however at least three written quotes are still required to be obtained.</p> <p>The purchasing decision is to be based upon assessment of the suppliers response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a detailed written specification for the goods, services or works required and • pre-determined evaluation criteria that assesses all best and sustainable value considerations. <p>The procurement decision is to be represented using the Evaluation Report template.</p>
<p>Over \$150,000 (exc GST)</p>	<p>Where the purchasing requirement is not suitable to be met through a panel of pre-qualified suppliers, or any other tender-exempt arrangement as listed under section 8 of this Policy, conduct a public Request for Tender process in accordance with the Regulations, this policy and the Town's tender procedures. The procurement decision is to be based on pre-determined evaluation criteria that assesses all value for money considerations in accordance with the definition stated within this Policy.</p> <p>The purchasing decision is to be based upon the suppliers response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a specification of the goods, services or works (for a tender exempt process including the WALGA Preferred Supplier Arrangement); or a detailed specification for the open tender process; and • pre-determined evaluation criteria that assesses all best and sustainable value considerations. <p>The procurement decision is to be represented using the Evaluation Report template.</p>

8. Tendering Exemptions

An exemption to publicly invite tenders may apply in the following instances:

- the purchase is obtained from a pre-qualified supplier under the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government Common Use Arrangement.

- the purchase is from a Regional Local Government or another Local Government;
- the purchase is acquired from a person registered on the WA Aboriginal Business Directory, as published by the Small Business Development Corporation, where the consideration under contract is worth \$250,000 or less and represents value for money;
- the purchase is acquired from an Australian Disability Enterprise and represents value for money;
- within 6 months of no tender being accepted;
- where the contract is for petrol, oil, or other liquid or gas used for internal combustion engines; or
- the purchase is from a pre-qualified supplier under a Panel established by the Town; or
- any of the other exclusions under Regulation 11 of the Regulations apply.

9. Inviting Tenders under the Tender Threshold

Where considered appropriate and beneficial, the Town may consider publicly advertising Tenders in lieu of undertaking a Request for Quotation for purchases under the tender threshold. This decision should be made after considering the benefits of this approach in comparison with the costs, risks, timeliness and compliance requirements and also whether the purchasing requirement can be met through the WALGA Preferred Supply Program or State Government CUA.

If a decision is made to undertake a public Tender for contracts expected to be \$150,000 or less in value, the Town's tendering procedures must be followed in full.

10. Sole Source of Supply

Where the purchasing requirement is over the value of \$5,000 and of a unique nature that can only be supplied from one supplier, the purchase is permitted without undertaking a tender or quotation process. This is only permitted in circumstances where the Town is satisfied and can evidence that there is only one source of supply for those goods, services or works. The Town must use its best endeavours to determine if the sole source of supply is genuine by exploring if there are any alternative sources of supply. Once determined, the justification must be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer, prior to a contract being entered into.

From time to time, the Town may publicly invite an expression of interest to effectively determine that one sole source of supply still genuinely exists.

11. Anti-Avoidance

The Town shall not enter into two or more contracts or create multiple purchase order transactions of a similar nature for the purpose of "splitting" the value of the purchase or contract to take the value of the consideration of the purchase below a particular purchasing threshold, particularly in relation to Tenders and to avoid the need to call a public Tender.

12. Emergency Purchases

An emergency purchase is defined as an unanticipated and unbudgeted purchase which is required in response to an emergency situation as provided for in the *Local Government Act 1995*. In such instances, quotes and tenders are not required to be obtained prior to the purchase being undertaken.

An emergency purchase does not relate to purchases not planned for due to time constraints. Every effort must be made to anticipate purchases required by the Town in advance and to allow sufficient time to obtain quotes and tenders, whichever may apply.

13. Record Management

Records of all purchasing activity must be retained in compliance with the *State Records Act 2000 (WA)*; the Town's Records Keeping Plan and associated procurement procedures.

For each procurement activity, such documents may include:

- The Procurement initiation document such as a procurement business case which justifies the need for a contract to be created (where applicable);
- Procurement Planning and approval documentation which describes how the procurement is to be undertaken to create and manage the contract;
- Request for Quotation/Tender documentation;
- Copy of public advertisement inviting tenders, or the notice of private invitation (whichever is applicable);
- Copies of quotes/tenders received;
- Evaluation documentation, including individual evaluators note and clarifications sought;
- Negotiation documents such as negotiation plans and negotiation logs;
- Approval of award documentation;
- All correspondence to respondents notifying of the outcome to award a contract;
- Contract Management Plans which describes how the contract will be managed; and
- Copies of contract(s) with supplier(s) formed from the procurement process.

14. Sustainable Procurement and Corporate Social Responsibility

The Town is committed to providing a preference to suppliers that demonstrate sustainable business practices and high levels of corporate social responsibility (CSR). Where appropriate, the Town shall endeavour to provide an advantage to suppliers demonstrating that they minimise environmental and negative social impacts and embrace CSR. Sustainable and CSR considerations must be balanced against value for money outcomes in accordance with the Town's sustainability objectives.

15. Local Economic Benefit

The Town encourages the development of competitive local businesses within its boundary and as much as practicable, the Town will:

- where appropriate, consider buying practices, procedures and specifications that do not unfairly disadvantage local businesses;
- consider indirect benefits that have flow on benefits for local suppliers (i.e. servicing and support);
- explore the capability of local businesses to meet requirements and ensure that Requests for Quotation and Tenders
- avoid bias in the design and specifications for Requests for Quotation and Tenders
- provide adequate and consistent information to potential suppliers.

16. Purchasing from Disability Enterprises

Pursuant to Part 4 of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, the Town is not required to publicly invite tenders if the goods or services are to be supplied from an Australian Disability Enterprise, as registered on www.ade.org.au. This is contingent on the demonstration of value for money.

Where possible, Australian Disability Enterprises are to be invited to quote for supplying goods and services under the tender threshold. A qualitative weighting may be afforded in the evaluation of quotes and tenders to provide advantages to Australian Disability Enterprises.

17. Purchasing from Aboriginal Businesses

Pursuant to Part 4 of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, the Town is not required to publicly invite tenders if the goods or services are to be supplied from a person registered on the Aboriginal Business Directory published by the Small Business Development Corporation on www.abdwa.com.au, where the expected consideration under contract is worth \$250,000 or less. This is contingent on the demonstration of value for money.

Where possible, Aboriginal businesses are to be invited to quote for supplying goods and services under the tender threshold. A qualitative weighting may be afforded in the evaluation of quotes and tenders to provide advantages to Aboriginal owned businesses, or businesses that demonstrate a high level of aboriginal employment.

18. Panels of Pre-Qualified Suppliers

Policy Objectives

In accordance with Regulation 24AC of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, a Panel of Pre-qualified Suppliers ("Panel") may be created where most of the following factors apply:

- the Town determines that a range of similar goods and services are required to be purchased on a continuing and regular basis;
- there are numerous potential suppliers in the local and regional procurement-related market sector(s) that satisfy the test of 'value for money';
- the purchasing activity under the intended Panel is assessed as being of a low to medium risk;
- the Panel will streamline and will improve procurement processes; and
- the Town has the capability to establish, manage the risks and achieve the benefits expected of the proposed Panel.

The Town will endeavour to ensure that Panels will not be created unless most of the above factors are firmly and quantifiably established.

19. Establishing a Panel

Should the Town determine that a Panel is beneficial to be created, it must do so in accordance with Part 4, Division 3 the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*.

Panels may be established for one supply requirement, or a number of similar supply requirements under defined categories within the Panel.

Panels may be established for a minimum of two (2) years and for a maximum length of time deemed appropriate by the Town.

Evaluation criteria must be determined and communicated in the application process by which applications will be assessed and accepted.

Where a Panel is to be established, the Town will endeavour to appoint at least three (3) suppliers to each category, on the basis that best value for money is demonstrated. Where less than three (3) suppliers are appointed to each category within the Panel, the category is not to be established.

In each invitation to apply to become a pre-qualified supplier (through a procurement process advertised through a state-wide notice), the Town must state the expected number of suppliers it intends to put on the panel.

Should a Panel member leave the Panel, they may be replaced by the next ranked Panel member determined in the value for money assessment should the supplier agree to do so, with this intention to be disclosed in the detailed information set out under Regulation 24AD(5)(d) and (e) when establishing the Panel.

20. Distributing Work Amongst Panel Members

To satisfy Regulation 24AD(5) of the Regulations, when establishing a Panel of pre-qualified suppliers, the detailed information associated with each invitation to apply to join the Panel must either prescribe whether the Town intends to:

- i. Obtain quotations from each pre-qualified supplier on the Panel with respect to all purchases, in accordance with Clause 20; or
- ii. Purchase goods and services exclusively from any pre-qualified supplier appointed to that Panel, and under what circumstances; or
- iii. Develop a ranking system for selection to the Panel, with work awarded in accordance with Clause 19 (b).

In considering the distribution of work among Panel members, the detailed information must also prescribe whether:

- a) each Panel member will have the opportunity to bid for each item of work under the Panel, with pre-determined evaluation criteria forming part of the invitation to quote to assess the suitability of the supplier for particular items of work. Contracts under the pre-qualified panel will be awarded on the basis of value for money in every instance; or
- b) work will be awarded on a ranked basis, which is to be stipulated in the detailed information set out under Regulation 24AD(5)(f) when establishing the Panel. The Town is to invite the highest ranked Panel member, who is to give written notice as to whether to accept the offer for the work to be undertaken. Should the offer be declined, an invitation to the next ranked Panel member is to be made and so forth until a Panel member accepts a Contract. Should the list of Panel members invited be exhausted with no Panel member accepting the offer to provide goods/services under the Panel, the Town may then invite suppliers that are not pre-qualified under the Panel, in accordance with the Purchasing Thresholds stated in section 5.5 of this Policy. When a ranking system is established, the Panel must not operate for a period exceeding 12 months.

In every instance, a contract must not be formed with a pre-qualified supplier for an item of work beyond 12 months, which includes options to extend the contract.

21. Purchasing from the Panel

The invitation to apply to be considered to join a panel of pre-qualified suppliers must state whether quotations are either to be invited to every member (within each category, if applicable) of the Panel for each purchasing requirement, whether a ranking system is to be established, or otherwise.

Each quotation process, including the invitation to quote, communications with panel members, quotations received, evaluation of quotes and notification of award communications may be made through eQuotes, or any other electronic quotation facility or otherwise must all be captured on the Town's electronic records system. A separate file is to be maintained for quotation processes made under each Panel that captures all communications between the Town and Panel members.

22. Recordkeeping

Records of all communications with Panel members, with respect to the quotation process and all subsequent purchases made through the Panel, must be kept.

For the creation of a Panel, this includes:

- The Procurement initiation document such as a procurement business case which justifies the need for a Panel to be created;
- Procurement Planning and approval documentation which describes how the procurement is to be undertaken to create and manage the Panel;
- Request for Applications documentation;
- Copy of public advertisement inviting applications;
- Copies of applications received;
- Evaluation documentation, including clarifications sought;
- Negotiation documents such as negotiation plans and negotiation logs;
- Approval of award documentation;
- All correspondence to applicants notifying of the establishment and composition of the Panel such as award letters;
- Contract Management Plans which describes how the contract will be managed; and
- Copies of framework agreements entered into with pre-qualified suppliers.

The Town is also to retain itemised records of all requests for quotation, including quotations received from pre-qualified suppliers and contracts awarded to Panel members. A unique reference number shall be applied to all records relating to each quotation process, which is to also be quoted on each purchase order issued under the Contract.

Information with regards to the Panel offerings, including details of suppliers appointed to the Panel, must be kept up to date, consistent and made available for access by all officers and employees of the Town.

Responsible Directorate:	Finance & Administration
Reviewing Officer:	Executive Manager Corporate Services
Decision making Authority:	Council
Policy Adopted:	16/8/16
Policy Amended:	19/6/18
Next Review Date:	

Attachment

Purchasing Procedures

PROCEDURES

1. Council purchase orders are to be signed only by Officers authorised by Council, namely the :
 - Chief Executive Officer; (unlimited)
 - Executive Manager Corporate Services; Limit \$50,000
 - Executive Manager Regulatory Services; Limit \$50,000
 - Principal Environmental Health Officer; Limit \$1,500
 - Operations Supervisor; Limit \$15,000
 - Operations Manager; Limit \$50,000
 - Manager Administration and Finance, Limit \$15,000
 - Projects Coordinator; Limit \$5,000
 - HR Coordinator; Limit \$5,000
 - Economic and Community Development Officer; Limit \$1,500
 - Executive Assistant to CEO; Limit \$500
 - Coordinator Planning and Building; Limit \$500
 - HACC Coordinator (HACC related purchases only); Limit \$1,500or those Officers acting in the positions from time to time;
2. Authority limitations apply to any purchase including signing of contracts in accordance with Delegation DA8 and DA9;
3. An official purchase order must be placed for all goods or services (including consultants' opinions, eg legal, engineering, town planning, etc) ordered;
4. Standing Purchase Order – these are commitments made against a particular supplier for good or services that are regularly procured over a specified period, usually one financial year. The full value of the commitment is restricted to the amount in the approved budget, allowing for a spread over more than one supplier. Standing order numbers will need to be quoted to the supplier for inclusion in their invoice. Do not provide a printed copy of “Standing Purchase Orders” to suppliers. Standing orders will be expedited by Finance at the end of each financial year and will need to be re-established in the new financial year.
5. Emergency Order – emergency orders can only be processed outside the procurement process when any of the following events are likely to occur:
 - Possible cause of injury or loss of life
 - Potential to result in destruction of property
 - Possible loss or disruption to the Town's stakeholders or core functions
 - Will seriously impair the reputation of the Town in the local or wider communityIn such cases, the purchaser will initially make a purchase commitment with a third party without following all the processes in this procedure. The purchase order is to be raised as soon as possible following the initial commitment.
6. When ordering by telephone a purchase order number must be quoted and the original of the order to be forwarded to the supplier endorsed “Confirmation of Telephone Order on “(date)”;
7. All Officers are to ensure that when issuing a Council order for goods or services that a current account number (which will reflect the Budget estimate for those goods or services) be quoted on the Council order. This will ensure that:-

- 7.1 expenditure is allocated to the correct Budget item (with the job number account being noted on the Council order); and
 - 7.2 that sufficient funds are identified against the job number account before expenditure is authorised;
8. In order that costs are adequately controlled before issuing a Council purchase order Officers must check against their current Budget estimates for the current financial year and monthly expenditure reports to ensure that there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of the goods or services being ordered;
9. Roles of Finance:
 - Finance Officers will provide initial training and support to Authorised Purchasing Officer;
 - Finance staff will review purchase orders prior to paying invoices to ensure compliance with the Purchasing Policy including ensuring that all relevant quotes are attached. Should there be any non-compliance, payment of the invoice will be placed on hold. An email will be sent to the Purchaser seeking a valid reason which will need to be confirmed by the CEO. Once this has been received, payment will be processed.
 - Goods receipt amounts will be matched to supplier's invoice and processed for payment in line with their terms. Any variance greater than 10% will be referred back to the Purchaser.
 - Purchase orders will be reviewed every three months to ensure obsolete orders are expedited.
10. Where possible, Council use environmentally friendly paper products including recycled paper;
11. All purchases must also comply with Policy 4.2.4 – Purchasing Policy.