

Why use a framework agreement for procurement in waste services?

What is a framework agreement? A quick & easy way of procuring goods or services, which can also save on procurement costs!

If a number of councils want to buy the same, or similar, products or services, it is possible to establish a 'framework agreement'. This means the lengthy and expensive procurement process happens when the framework is established – then councils can buy goods or services through the framework and avoid having to go through the whole procurement process individually.

- All your council has to do is a 'mini-tender'!
- Where complex products or services are being purchased, advice can also be delivered alongside the framework.
- The framework has a lifetime of up to four years during which time councils can use it to buy the relevant product or service.
- Technically, a framework is a formal statement of contractual terms that apply to each purchase made through the agreement.

So, a framework agreement is essentially an easy way of procuring products and services over a period of time (up to four years currently).

What are the benefits of a framework agreement?

- One practical effect of a framework agreement is the freedom to award contracts without the need to re-advertise and re-apply the selection and award criteria. This alone will lead to all parties saving the substantial time and cost of repeat bidding.
- Framework contacts are potentially more attractive to the market due to the likelihood of large orders therefore prices are competitive.
- Long-term relationships between clients and suppliers through a framework usually results in good service.
- The framework agreement procured by reputable organisations will have been procured by experts with a great deal of experience therefore producing good quality agreements.
- Frameworks have been in use and tested for more than ten years in the private sector and many case studies have demonstrated that framework agreements deliver better value, year on year.

Where can I find out about frameworks relating to waste management?

- There are many **existing framework agreements** for purchasing e.g. wheelie bins, compost bins, fuel and much more. These can be accessed by councils to procure waste commodities and services see [WIN's Procurement Support Service page](#).
- Alternatively if no framework agreement exists a number of authorities can work in partnership to **establish a new framework** agreement to reduce procurement costs and potentially the purchase price. See the OGC's guidance on Framework Agreements. [Click here](#)

Legal Basis

The European Union Public Sector Procurement Directive 2004/18/EC 1 includes a provision (Article 32) on framework agreements. The UK Public Procurement Regulations implement this Directive and came into force on 31 January 2006 and cover this provision in Regulation 19. The Utilities Procurement Directive and Regulations include this provision at Article 14 and Regulation 19 respectively. [Click here](#) for more information.