

- b) Where it is necessary to open a late bid or quotation to obtain the name and address of the sender, each page of the document shall be stamped "late bid" before the bid is returned to the bidder. The envelope must be stamped and initialled in like manner and must be retained for record purposes.
- 4) No Councillor of any municipality may be present at the opening of bids.
- 5) Dealing with bids and quotations if the closing date thereof has been extended.
 - a) Where the closing date of a bid or quotation is extended, bids or quotations already received, will be retained unopened in the bidding box and be duly considered after the expiry of the extended period, unless the bidder cancels it by submitting a later dated bid or quotation before the extended closing date.

24 Negotiations with preferred bidders and communication with prospective providers and bidders

- 1) The Accounting Officer may negotiate the final terms of a contract with bidders identified through a competitive bidding process as preferred bidders, provided that such negotiation –
 - a) does not allow any preferred bidder a second or unfair opportunity;
 - b) is not to the detriment of any other bidder; and
 - c) does not lead to a higher price than the bid as submitted;
 - d) does not lead to a lower price in respect of sale of land / goods.
- 2) Minutes of such negotiations must be kept for record purposes and as far as practical be made part of the final contract.
- 3) No unauthorised communication with bidders and prospective providers:
 - a) where bids and quotations have been submitted to the municipality, a bidder may not communicate with any councillor, official, or authorised service provider on any matter regarding his bid, quotation or offer other than a notice of withdrawal.
 - b) No municipal personnel may communicate with a bidder or any other party who has an interest in a bid, during the period between the closing date for the receipt of the bid or quotation (or date of receipt of an offer), and the date of notification of the successful bidder of acceptance of his bid, quotation or offer, except as provided for in clause (c) below. Every such case of unauthorised communication shall forthwith be reported to the Supply Chain Management Unit as well as the chairperson of the Bid Adjudication Committee. A bid or quotation in respect of which unauthorised communication has occurred may be disqualified.
 - c) The chairperson of the Bid Adjudication Committee, as determined in clause 29(2), may authorise an employee or authorised consulting service provider, in writing, to communicate with a bidder during the period mentioned in subsection (b) above for the purpose of:-
 - (i) Obtaining an explanation and verification of declarations made in the bid response;
 - (ii) confirming technical particulars and the compliance thereof with specifications;
 - (iii) clarifying delivery times/quantities;
 - (iv) extending the validity period of a bid;
 - (v) clarifying any other commercial aspect;
 - (vi) for the submission of substantiating documents.
 - d) In all cases where authority has been granted to communicate with bidders in terms of clause (c) above, it should be clearly stated in the submission to the Bid Adjudication Committee the nature of the communication as well as by whom such authority to communicate has been granted.
- 4) A bid will not be invalidated if the amount in words and the amount in figures do not correspond, in which case the amount in words shall be read out at the bid opening and shall be deemed to be the bid amount.

25 Two-stage bidding process

- 1) A two-stage bidding process is allowed for –
 - a) large complex projects; or
 - b) projects where it may be undesirable to prepare complete detailed technical specifications; or

- c) long term projects with a duration period exceeding three years.
- 2) In the first stage technical proposals on conceptual design or performance specifications should be invited, subject to technical as well as commercial clarifications and adjustments.
- 3) In the second stage final technical proposals and priced bids should be invited.

26 Committee system for competitive bids

- 1) A committee system for competitive bids is hereby established, consisting of the following committees for each transaction or cluster of transactions as the Accounting Officer may determine:
 - a) a bid specification committee;
 - b) a bid evaluation committee; and
 - c) a bid adjudication committee;
- 2) The Accounting Officer appoints the members of each committee, taking into account section 117 of the Act, and
- 3) The Accounting Officer may appoint a neutral or independent observer, to attend or oversee a committee when this is appropriate for ensuring fairness and promoting transparency.
- 4) The committee system must be consistent with –
 - a) clause 27, 28 and 29 of this Policy; and
 - b) any other applicable legislation.
- 5) The Accounting Officer may apply the committee system to formal written price quotations.

27 Bid Specification Committees

- 1) The appropriate bid specification committee must compile the specifications for each procurement transaction for goods or services by the Municipality, depending on the department involved.
- 2) Specifications –
 - a) must be drafted in an unbiased manner to allow all potential suppliers to offer their goods or services;
 - b) must take account of any accepted standards such as those issued by Standards South Africa, the International Standards Organization, or an authority accredited or recognised by the South African National Accreditation System with which the equipment or material or workmanship should comply;
 - c) must, where possible, be described in terms of performance required and / or in terms of descriptive characteristics for design;
 - d) may not create trade barriers in contract requirements in the forms of specifications, plans, drawings, designs, testing and test methods, packaging, marking or labelling of conformity certification;
 - e) may not make reference to any particular trade mark, name, patent, design, type, specific origin or producer unless there is no other sufficiently precise or intelligible way of describing the characteristics of the work, in which case such reference must be accompanied by the word "equivalent";
 - f) must indicate each specific goal for which points may be awarded in terms of the points system set out in the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2011; and
 - g) must be approved by the Accounting Officer or the relevant delegated director prior to publication of the invitation for bids in terms of clause 22 of this Policy.
- 3) A Bid Specification Committee must be composed of the following:-
 - a) a delegated supply chain management practitioner as chairperson;
 - b) the budget holder from the Directorate for whom the bid is called; and
 - c) a legal advisor.
- 4) The Committee may, when appropriate, include external specialist advisors.
- 5) No person, advisor or corporate entity involved with the bid specification committee, or director of such a corporate entity, may bid for any resulting contracts.

28 Bid Evaluation Committees

- 1) A Bid Evaluation Committee must –
 - a) evaluate all bids for procurement exceeding R30,000 in accordance with –
 - (i) the specifications for a specific procurement; and
 - (ii) the points system set out in terms of the Preferential Procurement Policy;
 - b) evaluate each bidder's ability to execute the contract ;
 - c) check in respect of the recommended bidder whether municipal rates and taxes and municipal service charges are not in arrears for more than three months;
 - d) submit to the adjudication committee a report and recommendations regarding the award of the bid or any other related matter; and
- 2) A Bid Evaluation Committee must be composed of:-
 - a) a delegated supply chain management practitioner as chairperson; and
 - b) the budget holder from the Directorate for whom the bid is called;

29 Bid Adjudication Committees

- 1) A bid adjudication committee must –
 - a) consider the report and recommendations of the bid evaluation committee; and
 - b) either –
 - (i) depending on its delegations, make a final award or a recommendation to the Accounting Officer to make the final award; or
 - (ii) make another recommendation to the Accounting Officer how to proceed with the relevant procurement.
- 2) The bid adjudication committee must be composed of all municipality's directors, including of the following: –
 - a) the Chief Financial Officer or, if the Chief Financial Officer is not available, another manager reporting directly to the Chief Financial Officer and designated by the Chief Financial Officer; and
 - b) the **Head: Supply Chain Management**.
- 3) The Accounting Officer must appoint the chairperson of the committee. If the Chairperson is unable to chair the meeting, the members of the committee who are present must elect one of them to preside at the meeting.
- 4) A quorum for the Adjudication Committee shall be four members.
 - a) In the event of an equality of votes the chairperson shall have a casting vote over and above a deliberate vote.
 - b) The Director of the department that called for the tender must be present at the meeting where the particular tender is considered.
- 5) The Chairperson of the Bid Evaluation Committee, or in his absence an official nominated by the Chief Financial Officer, should be present at the Bid Adjudication Committee meetings to introduce the reports to the Committee and assist in clarifying issues that were dealt with in the Evaluation Committee meetings without voting rights.
- 6) A technical expert in the relevant field, who is an official, if such an expert exists, may attend the meeting as an advisor for clarification purposes. This official will not have voting rights at the Bid Adjudication Committee meeting. Neither a member of a bid evaluation committee, nor an advisor or person assisting the evaluation committee, may be a member of a bid adjudication committee.
- 7) If the bid adjudication committee decides to award a bid other than the one recommended by the bid evaluation committee –
 - a) the bid adjudication committee must prior to awarding the bid –
 - (i) check in respect of the preferred bidder whether that bidder's municipal rates and taxes and municipal service charges are not in arrears for more than three months, and;
 - (ii) notify the Accounting Officer.

- b) The Accounting Officer may –
 - (i) after due consideration of the reasons for the deviation, ratify or reject the decision of the bid adjudication committee referred to in clause (a); and
 - (ii) if the decision of the bid adjudication committee is rejected, refer the decision of the adjudication committee back to that committee for reconsideration.
- 8) The Accounting Officer may at any stage of a bidding process, refer any recommendation made by the evaluation committee or the adjudication committee back to that committee for reconsideration of the recommendation.
- 9) The Accounting Officer must comply with Section 114 of the Act within 10 days–
 - a) If a tender other than the one recommended in the normal course of implementing the supply chain management policy is approved, the Accounting Officer must, in writing, notify the Auditor-General, the Provincial Treasury and the National Treasury of the reasons for deviating from such recommendation.
 - b) Subsection (1) does not apply if a different tender was approved in order to rectify an irregularity.

30 Procurement of Banking Services

- 1) A contract for banking services –
 - a) must be procured through competitive bids;
 - b) must be consistent with section 7 of the Act; and
 - c) may not be for a period of more than five years at a time.
- 2) The process for procuring a contract for banking services must commence at least nine months before the end of an existing contract.
- 3) The closure date for the submission of bids may not be less than 46 business days from the date on which the advertisement is placed in a newspaper in terms of clause 22(1).
- 4) Bids must be restricted to banks registered in terms of the Banks Act, 1990 (Act No. 94 of 1990).

31 Procurement of Information- and Communication Technology (ICT) related goods or services

- 1) The Accounting Officer may request the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) to assist with the acquisition of ICT related goods or services through a competitive bidding process.
- 2) Both parties must enter into a written agreement to regulate the services rendered by, and the payments to be made to, SITA.
- 3) The Accounting Officer must notify SITA together with a motivation of the ICT needs if –
 - a) the transaction value of ICT related goods or services required in any financial year will exceed R50 million ; or
 - b) the transaction value of a contract to be procured whether for one or more years exceeds R50 million .
- 4) If SITA comments on the submission and the Municipality disagree with such comments, the comments and the reasons for rejecting or not following such comments must be submitted to Council, the National Treasury, the Provincial Treasury and the Auditor-General.
- 5) The Municipality is required to follow the following process before inviting proposals for a new financial management system:
 - a) National and Provincial Treasury should immediately be informed of any intention to replace the accounting or billing system currently operating at the municipality;
 - b) The submission should include a comprehensive motivation with specific reasons for why it is deemed necessary to replace the existing financial system;
 - c) A copy of the service level agreement with minutes of the meetings between the municipality and the current service provider (financial system vendor) during the previous twelve months must be made available;
 - d) The organisational structure, specifically for the IT department/function, clearly indicating management capacity and responsibility for operating the financial system, must be submitted;

- e) An assessment should be done to determine which modules of the existing financial system are being utilised by the municipality and reasons must be provided for modules not in operation. In cases where an existing system is not an ERP system the municipality must provide details of any other systems utilised by the municipality;
- f) The date on which the existing financial system was implemented, the procurement and implementation costs and the current operational costs thereof must be disclosed;
- g) A technical assessment must be undertaken on the server and network requirements of the new financial system and a copy of such report should be submitted; and
- h) Copies of all IT strategies, policies and procedural documents including the IT disaster recovery plan must be made available.

32 Procurement of goods and services under contracts secured by other organs of state

- 1) The Accounting Officer may procure goods or services under a contract secured by another organ of state, but only if –
 - a) the contract has been secured by that other organ of state by means of a competitive bidding process applicable to that organ of state;
 - b) there is no reason to believe that such contract was not validly procured;
 - c) there are demonstrable discounts or benefits to do so; and
 - d) that other organ of state and the provider have consented to such procurement in writing.

33 Procurement of goods necessitating special safety arrangements

- 1) The acquisition and storage of goods in bulk (other than water), which necessitate special safety arrangements, including gasses and fuel, should be avoided where ever possible.
- 2) Where the storage of goods in bulk is justified, such justification must be based on sound reasons, including the total cost of ownership, cost advantages and environmental impact and must be approved by the official duly authorised in terms of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993).

34 Proudly SA Campaign

- 1) The Municipality supports the Proudly SA Campaign to the extent that, as far as possible, preference is given to procuring local goods and services as per Council's Preferential Procurement Policy

35 Appointment of consultants

- 1) The Accounting Officer may procure consulting services provided that any National Treasury guidelines and CIDB requirements in respect of consulting services are taken into account when such services are procured.
- 2) Consultancy services must be procured through competitive bids if:
 - a) the value of the contract exceeds R200 000 (Incl. VAT); or
 - b) the duration period of the contract exceeds one year.
- 3) In addition to any requirements prescribed by this policy for competitive bids, bidders must furnish particulars of –
 - a) all consultancy services provided to an organ of state in the last five years; and
 - b) any similar consultancy services provided to an organ of state in the last five years.
- 4) The Accounting Officer must ensure that copyright in any document produced, and the patent rights or ownership in any plant, machinery, thing, system or process designed or devised, by a consultant in the course of the consultancy service is vested in the Municipality.

36 Deviation from, and ratification of minor breaches of procurement processes

- 1) The Accounting Officer may –
 - a) dispense with the official procurement processes established by this Policy and to procure any required goods or services through any convenient process, which may include direct negotiations, but only –
 - (i) in an emergency;