

Working with Slough Borough Council

About Slough

Slough is predominantly an urban area situated in the east of Berkshire. Slough has a population of over 158,000 and the borough is considered to be one of the most ethnically diverse in the United Kingdom, outside of London with approximately 120 different languages are spoken in Slough's schools.

Neighbouring authorities include the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) to the west and Surrey County Council to the south, Buckinghamshire County Council to the north and west, and the London Borough of Hillingdon to the east. Slough shares many similarities with some London boroughs. Slough is also integrated into the heart of the UK transport and communications network, located between the M4, M40 and the M25. The town is an important commercial centre and includes large industrial as well as residential areas.

Doing business with us

Slough Borough Council ("SBC") is committed to the transparency obligations imposed on all local authorities in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 and the Local government transparency code in England. All forthcoming SBC tender opportunities are advertised on South East Shared Services e-sourcing portal.

SE Shared Services Portal

The SE Shared Services Portal is web-based portal designed to allow the sharing of information about existing contracts and forthcoming tendering opportunities across a growing number of councils in the South East region. The online portal enables the Council and potential bidders to conduct the strategic activities of the procurement lifecycle over the internet. It provides a simple, secure and efficient means for managing tendering and quotation activities, reducing the time and effort required for both buyers and potential bidders.

Providing better access to opportunities

Slough seeks to promote equality of opportunity to organisations, including small and local firms, ethnic minority businesses and voluntary/community organisations.

At Slough we are constantly reviewing our tender documents to ensure we use simplified tender documentation to reduce red tape and ensure maximum SME participation.

Improving our communication

We often run specific market events relating to upcoming tenders; these are great for keeping you informed as well as giving you an opportunity to give your views and shape the tender.

Working for the community

Getting the best value for our residents is important to us, and it's not just about saving money.

We are committed to sustainable procurement and all council contracts consider the impact on the economy, society and environment.

We strongly encourage the use of local workforce, including apprenticeships, local supply chain and innovative social initiatives in our communities in Slough as part of our Social value policy.

The Procurement Act 2023

The Procurement Act 2023 is designed to simplify and modernise the public procurement system, making it easier for businesses to compete for and win public contracts.

The Act will come into effect in 2024, and there are a number of things that businesses need to do to prepare. Here is a brief guide:

1. Understand the changes that the Act will introduce. The Act will make a number of changes to the way public procurement is conducted, including:
 - Consolidating four sets of regulations into one
 - Introducing a new procedure for running competitive tendering processes
 - Requiring contracting authorities to have regard to the needs of small businesses
 - Increasing transparency throughout the procurement process.
2. Start planning your procurement strategy. Once you understand the changes that the Act will introduce, you need to start planning your procurement strategy. This will involve identifying the public contracts that you are interested in bidding for, and developing a plan to win those contracts.
3. Get familiar with the new rules and regulations by getting familiar with the changes by reading the government's guidance on the Procurement Act.
4. Build relationships with public sector buyers. One of the best ways to win public contracts is to build relationships with public sector buyers. This means getting to know them, understanding their needs, and demonstrating that you can meet those needs.

5. The Procurement Act is a significant piece of legislation that will have a major impact on the public procurement market. By understanding the changes that the Act will introduce and taking steps to prepare, businesses can position themselves to take advantage of the new opportunities that will be created.

6. Here are some additional resources that you may find helpful:

- Transforming Public Procurement: www.gov.uk/government/collections/transforming-public-procurement
- The Procurement Act: a short guide for suppliers
The Procurement Act 2023: A short guide for suppliers (HTML) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

SBC's current and forthcoming tenders

Slough Borough Council publish details of forthcoming tenders twice per year in a report to cabinet in April and September

Details can be found on the following web page: democracy.slough.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=109&Year=0

A list of our current live contracts can be found on our website at www.slough.gov.uk/performance-spending/contracts-register

For any enquiries about procurement at Slough Borough Council, please email sbcprocurement@slough.gov.uk