

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: The Executive – 13 March 2019

Subject: The adoption of the Unite Construction Charter by Manchester City Council

Report of: City Treasurer

Summary

To incorporate into the Ethical Procurement Policy the Unite Construction Charter and any other revisions necessary.

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

1. agree to the Unite Construction Charter being included within the appendices of the Ethical Procurement Policy and the inclusion of the additional wording to section 6 of the policy as detailed in this report; and
 2. request that the Chief Executive signs the Charter on behalf of the Council to enable it to be incorporated into the Ethical Procurement Policy.
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Wards Affected:

All

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Council is committed to improving engagement with Small – Medium organisations, voluntary sector and charitable organisations, and where appropriate tenders will be adapted to their needs, particularly with regard to dividing large contracts into lots, in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Provide better Health and Wellbeing for Manchester residents through promotion of fair working conditions, better training opportunities and sustainable economic growth.

<p>A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities</p>	<p>The Council favours an asset based approach which looks at the uniqueness of people, their potential skills, assets, relationships and community resources. This approach concentrates primarily on what is important to people, what they want to do, and the strengths and nature of their social networks. This underpins wider Council priorities of building self-reliance and strengthening communities.</p>
<p>A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work</p>	<p>The supplier, service provider and contractor endeavour to purchase through suppliers and contractors who are continuously working at improving labour and environmental standards in the supply chain.</p>
<p>A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth</p>	<p>Through commissioning and procurement activities this will promote Manchester as an attractive place to work by securing wider benefits and improvement to the lives of people in Manchester and the environment.</p>

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Unite Union contacted Manchester Council as part of their campaign to contact all Council/Group Leaders across the country regarding their Construction Charter, seeking support to have these terms nationally agreed as minimum standard in any local authority procurement policy.
- 1.2 The Charter, included as an appendix, to this report recommended for signing by Manchester City Council has been amended by agreement with Unite Union to allow more flexibility in the application of the charter relating to the nature of the work requiring specialist skills and experience including work on listed and heritage buildings/assets.

2.0 Construction Charter

- 2.1 The Charter contains many beneficial clauses including essential points on Health and Safety, standards of work, apprenticeship training and the implementation of appropriate nationally agreed terms and conditions of employment.
- 2.2 The Charter applies to contractors, sub-contractors and their supply chain engaged on construction projects awarded by a local authority.
- 2.3 By approving and including the Charter in the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy contracts between the Council and contractors in the construction industry will be strengthened. This Charter also aligns itself to the modern slavery and Human Trafficking which is referred to in the Council's Ethical Policy.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the following wording is included in the [Ethical Procurement Policy](#) under Section 6 Responsible Supply Chain:

“As a local authority we are responsible for the procurement of a multitude of construction projects. It is therefore appropriate that we as a responsible Council have signed up to Unite’s Construction Charter in order to achieve the highest standards in respect of direct employment status, health & safety, standard of work, apprenticeship training, and appropriate nationally agreed terms and conditions of employment. A link to the full construction charter that the Council have signed up to can be found in the appendix to the policy.”

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The recommendations are set out at the beginning of the report.