



Cabinet Office

Procurement Policy Note – The Construction Playbook

Action Note PPN 09/20

December 2020

Issue

1. The Construction Playbook sets out 14 key policies for how the government should assess, procure and deliver public works projects and programmes. It outlines the government's expectations for how contracting authorities and suppliers, including their supply chains, should engage with each other. The Construction Playbook will be assured through existing governance arrangements including Cabinet Office controls for In-scope Organisations and their relevant projects and programmes.

Dissemination and Scope

2. The contents of this PPN apply to all Central Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies. Together these are referred to as 'In-scope Organisations'. The Construction Playbook and associated guidance is considered good practice and the wider public sector is encouraged to take account of the Construction Playbook.
3. Please circulate this PPN within your organisation, drawing it to the attention of those with a commercial, procurement, policy, estates, project delivery or digital role related to the delivery of public works.

Timing

4. The provisions of this Procurement Policy Note should be applied with immediate effect.

Action

5. In-scope Organisations should take action to apply the principles and policies set out in the [Construction Playbook](#). These include:
 - **Setting clear and appropriate outcome-based specifications** that are designed with the input of industry to ensure we drive continuous improvement and innovation.

- **Favouring longer term contracting across portfolios**, where appropriate. Develop long term plans for key asset types and programmes to drive greater value through public spending.
 - **Standardising design, components and interfaces** as much as is possible.
 - **Driving the adoption of Modern Methods of Construction including digital and offsite manufacturing technologies** through standardisation and aggregation.
 - **Creating sustainable, effective, win-win contracting arrangements that incentivise better outcomes**, improve risk management and promote the general financial health of the sector.
 - **Strengthening financial assessment and monitoring of suppliers** and safeguarding the delivery of public works projects.
6. The Construction Playbook is supported by updates to two of the existing guidance notes for the Outsourcing Playbook. In-Scope Organisations should apply these guidance notes alongside the Construction Playbook:
- [Assessing the Economic and Financial Standing of Suppliers Guidance Note](#).
 - [Resolution Planning Guidance Note](#).

Background

7. [The Outsourcing Playbook](#) was launched in February 2019 and updated in June 2020 to V2.0 and continues to apply to the delivery of public services by In-Scope Organisations. See [PPN 05/20](#).
8. The Construction Playbook complements the Outsourcing Playbook by setting out principles and policies to improve how government delivers public works to drive better outcomes and value for money for the public.

Contact

9. Enquiries about this PPN should be directed to the Helpdesk on info@crownccommercial.gov.uk.
10. The Construction Playbook implementation team can be contacted via sourcingprogramme@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.