

**Construction Accord**  
Transformation Action Plan

**Commonly Used Reference  
Documents For Construction  
Procurement**

July 2025

## **Scottish Construction Accord Procurement Working Group**

### **Purpose**

This document has been prepared to provide a simple source of signposting to reference documents which are in common use by those involved in public sector construction procurement in Scotland.

The following table contains a list of common reference documents and some brief notes on their applicability. It is not an exhaustive list and can be updated and added to.

This document is hosted on the [Transformation Action Plan website](#).

If you have any suggestions for additional documents then please contact Claire Pollock at the Scottish Futures Trust:  
[claire.pollock@scottishfuturestrust.org.uk](mailto:claire.pollock@scottishfuturestrust.org.uk)

Public Sector Guidance			
Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Scottish Government Client Guide to Construction Projects	<a href="#">Client Guide to Construction Projects</a>	Guidance to assist public sector clients to manage and procure construction projects. This includes the Construction Procurement Handbook: <a href="#">Construction Procurement Handbook</a>	This construction specific SG guidance is mandated for all public bodies operating under the Scottish Public Finance Manual and is recommended for all others. It incorporates new policies and is an important reference for public sector construction procurement.
Scottish Government Construction Policy Notes	<a href="#">Scottish Procurement Construction Policy</a>	Collection of construction policy notes (CPNs) which provide advice to public sector organisations on construction information and guidance.	This construction specific Scottish Government guidance is mandated for all public bodies operating under the Scottish Public Finance Manual and is recommended for all others.
Scottish Government Public Sector Procurement	<a href="#">Public sector procurement - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)</a>	Scottish Government portal for public sector procurement.	Construction Procurement portal: <a href="#">Construction procurement - Public sector procurement - gov.scot</a>
Procurement Journey	<a href="#">Home Procurement Journey</a>	The Procurement Journey provides guidance for public sector buyers who procure goods, services and care and support services.	This is Scottish Government's general primary resource for public procurement in Scotland.

Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Infrastructure Investment Plan	<a href="#">A National Mission with Local Impact: Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 - gov.scot</a>	The Infrastructure Investment Plan outlines a coherent, and strategic approach to delivering Scotland's National Infrastructure Mission.	
Steel pipeline 2021: market opportunities for public sector projects	<a href="#">Steel pipeline 2021: market opportunities for public sector projects - gov.scot</a>	Steel pipeline shows prospective types and approximate volumes of steel derived from projects noted at Annex D of the Infrastructure Investment Plan.	
Construction Pipeline Forecast Tool	<a href="#">Infrastructure Investment Pipeline   Scottish Futures Trust</a>	The Construction Pipeline Forecast Tool provides a look forward as to the anticipated public sector spend within construction.	

Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Community Benefits Toolkit for Construction	<a href="#">Community Benefits Toolkit for Construction</a>	A toolkit for developing clearly defined and proportionate community benefits for construction contracts. Provides an easy to use methodology for developing a project specific community benefit project plan. Includes example benefits, a template project plan, legal drafting, monitoring procedures and approach to tendering.	
Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Building Information Modelling	<a href="#">BIM Portal</a>	This portal provides clear guidance on how building information can be consistently briefed, procured, delivered and managed in alignment with international industry standards. This will help Scotland's public sector estate owners and operators deliver improved value, services and asset performance across the whole asset lifecycle.	

Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Whole Life Appraisal Tool for the Built Environment	<a href="#">Whole Life Appraisal Tool for the Built Environment</a>	The whole life appraisal tool provides a format and methodology for recording, reporting and comparing the whole life assessment of infrastructure investment options.	
UK Govt. The Construction Playbook, Sept 2022	<a href="#">Construction Playbook</a>	UK Government Guidance on sourcing and contracting public works projects and programmes.	<p>Note that this is a UKG policy document and does not formally apply in Scotland. In Scotland there is the Client Guide to Construction.</p> <p>Comparison between aspects of the UK Govt The Construction Playbook and the Scottish Govt Client Guide to Construction Projects:  <a href="#">Introduction - Construction - HMG Construction Playbook and Client Guide to Construction Projects: comparison - gov.scot</a></p>

Other Industry Reports, Strategies, Plans, etc			
Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Scottish Construction Accord, 2022	<a href="#">Scottish Construction Accord</a>	A shared vision to improve outcomes for industry and the public sector. <a href="#">The Construction Accord   Construction Leadership Forum</a>	The Transformation Action Plan is about collaborative working between stakeholders across the Priority Work Areas. The nature of the actions means that some will require particular focus by the public sector as clients, some by government and its agencies and some by the construction and related industries. <a href="#">Home - Construction Accord Transformation Action Plan</a>
Constructing the Gold Standard	<a href="#">Constructing The Gold Standard</a>	An Independent Review of Public Sector Construction Frameworks Over 2,000 public sector construction frameworks are currently active, some of which deliver improved value and enable excellent project outcomes while others are less ambitious and less successful. Clients and suppliers urgently need a Gold Standard to help them identify what questions they should ask when creating and implementing construction frameworks, what answers they should expect and how they can make informed decisions.	

Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Independent Review of Public Sector Procurement in Construction	<a href="#">Independent Review of Procurement in Construction</a>	Report of the independent review of procurement in construction carried out by Robin Crawford and Ken Lewandowski.	Scottish Government reference: <a href="#">Public sector procurement in construction: review outputs - gov.scot</a>  SFT reference: <a href="#">outputs-summary-for-cpr</a>
Review of Sustainable Procurement in Scotland and Other Parts of the UK	<a href="#">Scotland's Journey of Achievable Sustainable Procurement Outcomes (2002-2022)</a>	An independent review that looks back over the past twenty years of sustainable public procurement in Scotland and other parts of the UK. The findings showcase how the progressive approach to sustainable procurement in Scotland has achieved jobs, training and other positive outcomes.	
Infrastructure Commission for Scotland	<a href="#">Infrastructure Commission for Scotland</a>	The Infrastructure Commission for Scotland was established by Scottish Government to provide independent, informed advice on the nation's vision, ambition and priorities to create a 30-year infrastructure strategy to meet the country's future economic growth and societal needs.	



Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Accounts Commission: Audit Scotland Procurement in Scotland	<a href="#">Procurement in Councils</a>	This report describes the impact made by the Accounts Commission's performance audit report on <a href="#">Procurement in councils</a> , published in April 2014.	
Accounts Commission: Audit Scotland Major Capital Investment Report 2013	<a href="#">Audit Scotland Major Capital Investment Report</a>	This audit provides the first comprehensive review of major capital investment within councils. It focuses on major capital projects over £5 million each and assesses how well councils direct, manage and deliver capital investments. In doing so, it reviews the level, type and financing methods of investment spending in councils. It also examines how well councils manage their investment spending as a programme and their performance in delivering major capital projects against time and cost targets.	

Reference	Link	Content	Notes
Audit Scotland Major Capital Investment Follow Up 2016	<a href="#">Major Capital Investment Report - Follow Up</a>	This targeted follow-up audit assesses to what extent councils have improved performance in managing their capital investment programmes and projects since the 2013 report. This includes councils' actions to strengthen monitoring, their use of the checklists and whether they have applied lessons learned to their latest capital projects.	
Accounts Commission: Audit Scotland Good Practice Checklist for Project Managers	<a href="#">Good Practice Checklist for Project Managers</a>	It provides a detailed self-assessment checklist - aimed at project managers rather than elected members - to promote detailed review and reflection and, if necessary, a basis for improvement.	