2026 LGE

VALUE FOR MONEY CONTRACT

A public commitment to residents and ratepayers

Political party:

Authorised representative and position:

Scope: Every municipality in which the Party participates in government following the 2026 local government elections, unless the following municipalities are expressly specified:

1. Our commitment

Public money must serve the public.

We, the undersigned political party ("the Party"), commit to advancing the principles of the IRR's Value For Money Bill and translating them into measurable improvements in municipal governance.

Where we govern, independently or in coalition, we will use our lawful powers to secure better services and responsible spending. We accept public scrutiny of our performance against this Contract throughout the resulting municipal term.

2. The principles we endorse

We endorse the overall principles of the IRR's Value For Money Bill:

• Procurement should maximise whole-life value, considering quality, suitability, reliability, capability, risk and integrity.

• Competitive procurement should be the norm, with published evaluation methods and recorded reasons for exceptions.

• Preference mechanisms should not displace maximum value. Equal-value bids may attract transparent tie-break preferences for employment intensity, delivery record, financial soundness and transitional black ownership and management. The proposed racial tie-break expires three years after the legislation commences.

• Procurement records should be digitally accessible, with reasoned awards and regular reporting.

• Suppliers should receive prompt payment through electronic invoicing.

Our objective is to make municipal resources deliver tangible benefits, particularly to residents who depend most heavily on public services.

LAWFUL IMPLEMENTATION & FIRST 100 DAYS

3. Implementation within the law

This Contract commits the Party to political action, policy reform and oversight. It does not itself amend legislation, bind a municipality or authorise interference in an individual tender.

We will comply with the Constitution, applicable procurement legislation, municipal finance requirements and court orders.

Where an undertaking requires a change in national law, we will publicly advocate that change and use our representation in legislative bodies to advance it. We will not instruct officials to disregard existing legal obligations.

Any legal obstacle must be identified specifically in our implementation plan, together with the available lawful action and the reform we will pursue. A general reference to "legal constraints" will not constitute adequate reporting.

4. Our first 100 days in government

"Taking office" means the date on which the Party first assumes executive responsibility in a municipality after the election, either alone or through a coalition. The following deadlines run separately for each municipality.

Within 30 calendar days, we will:

1. Publish this signed Contract and name the Party office-bearer responsible for monitoring its implementation.

2. Publish a municipal implementation plan identifying proposed actions, responsible political office-bearers, resource requirements and deadlines.

3. Request a documented assessment of the legal and operational changes needed.

Within 60 calendar days

Our councillors will table a motion proposing a municipal Value For Money programme, including appropriate policy amendments, reporting arrangements and budget provision. We will publish the motion and the outcome of the council's decision.

Within 100 calendar days

We will publish a baseline assessment covering procurement performance, overdue supplier payments, contract overruns and relevant audit findings, using lawfully accessible information. Unavailable information will be identified, with steps and deadlines for obtaining it.

We will publish measurable improvement targets against that baseline.

PROCUREMENT, TRANSPARENCY & PAYMENT

5. Procurement reform and integrity

We will propose and support municipal policies that:

1. Require a documented assessment of need before significant expenditure is approved.

2. Compare realistic alternatives and the costs of operating, maintaining and replacing assets.

3. Prevent specifications being tailored to favour connected suppliers.

4. Require scrutiny of contract extensions, variations and repeated emergency purchasing.

5. Monitor whether contractors deliver the agreed work before payment is authorised.

We will not seek procurement advantages for party donors, members, office-bearers, relatives or associates. We will require our representatives to disclose relevant interests and recuse themselves where required.

Our councillors will exercise policy and oversight responsibilities without participating in bid evaluation or directing officials to select particular suppliers.

Credible evidence of wrongdoing will be referred promptly to the appropriate authorities. We will support lawful investigation, recovery of losses and disciplinary proceedings, with due process.

6. Public access to procurement information

We will pursue a municipal publication standard under which award reasons and value assessments are available within ten working days, and procurement summaries are published by the fifteenth day of the following month. These reflect the Bill's proposed reporting timetable.

We will seek publication of tender documents, contracts and amendments in searchable, downloadable formats, subject to lawful protections. A municipal publication channel will be used where an appropriate national facility is unavailable.

Our proposed reporting dashboard will also show:

• Contract progress, delays and cost changes.

• Supplier payment performance.

• Procurement complaints and their resolution.

• Progress on corrective actions arising from audit findings.

Where information must lawfully be withheld, the publication should identify the legal basis and disclose the remainder wherever possible.

7. Paying suppliers promptly

We will propose a funded electronic invoicing and payment improvement plan within 100 days of taking office.

The Bill proposes payment within five days of receiving an e-invoice unless otherwise agreed, and within thirty days for other valid invoices. We will pursue the five-day standard for valid, undisputed electronic invoices, supported by proper verification and cash-flow planning.

We will publish the proportion paid within target, overdue amounts and reasons for delay. Invoice disputes must be identified promptly and may not be used to conceal payment backlogs.

COALITIONS & PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

8. Coalition commitments

Before entering or renewing a coalition agreement, we will table this Contract for inclusion and seek a shared implementation programme.

We will publish whether our coalition partners accepted it and identify any unresolved differences. We will not describe a coalition as committed to this Contract unless it has expressly agreed.

Coalition disagreement does not excuse the Party from its own obligations to table proposals, disclose its position, exercise oversight and report its actions.

If we leave government, we will publish a closing progress report within thirty calendar days and continue advancing these principles through our council representation.

9. Reporting results to residents

Within thirty calendar days after each quarter ends, we will publish a progress report against this Contract, beginning with the first full quarter after taking office.

Each report will state:

1. What we promised and what we did.

2. Which deadlines and targets were met or missed.

3. The reasons for shortfalls and the corrective action required.

4. The council decisions we supported and their outcomes.

5. Any verified savings and associated service improvements.

Claims of savings must disclose the comparison used and distinguish recurring savings from once-off reductions or deferred expenditure.

We will propose that verified savings be considered through lawful budget processes for service reliability, maintenance, financial sustainability and affordable municipal charges.

At least annually, we will hold a public accountability meeting and invite residents, businesses and civil-society organisations to question our performance.

10. Failure to honour this Contract

Any resident or organisation may submit a written complaint identifying an alleged failure to comply.

The Party will:

• Acknowledge the complaint within seven calendar days.

• Provide a reasoned response within thirty calendar days.

• Publish any substantiated failure and a corrective plan, subject to lawful privacy protections.

• Where a failure remains unresolved after sixty calendar days, publish an explanation from the Party leader or authorised national office-bearer.

We will consider persistent or deliberate non-compliance through our internal accountability procedures, with a fair opportunity for affected representatives to respond.

Party contact for complaints: _____

Public reporting address: _____

DURATION, DECLARATION & SIGNATURES

11. Duration and status

This Contract takes effect on signature. Obligations linked to governing begin when the Party takes office as defined above and continue while it participates in government during the resulting municipal term. Outstanding reporting obligations survive its departure from government.

This is a public political accountability compact. It does not create an automatic entitlement to damages, invalidate procurement decisions or replace statutory complaints and legal remedies.

Changes or withdrawal must be published, dated and explained. They may not retrospectively erase the record of commitments, missed deadlines or complaints.

12. Declaration and signature

We accept that residents are entitled to judge us by the services delivered and the value obtained from public money.

We endorse this Contract, undertake to communicate it to our candidates and councillors, and authorise its publication.

The signatory confirms that they are authorised to make this commitment on behalf of the Party.

FOR THE PARTY

Name:

Position:

Signature:

Place and date:

Party authorising resolution/reference:

WITNESS

Name:

Signature:

Date: