



# Sustainable Furniture Disposal Contract

## Background

Camden is the lead Local Authority on a 2-year project for the London Centre of Excellence on sustainable procurement. London Fire Brigade Furniture Disposal service as part of a major office move was one of 3 contracts the project assisted.

Existing furniture stock was considered unsuitable to transfer to the new head office. Key issues that led to this conclusion were:

- varied style, age, colour and condition of existing stock
- change in office layout from multiple buildings with internal offices to open plan
- loss of structural integrity of some desks due to construction methods

‘putting more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use... to appreciate the environmental and economic benefits from waste reduction’  
(Ben Bradshaw, Minister for Waste, Waste Strategy for England, 2007)

‘it can be done... it’s not difficult... and it makes good business sense’  
(Sir Neville Simms, Chair, SPTF)

## Making More Efficient Use of Resources

Each year the UK generates 100M tonnes of waste. Research shows recycling offers more environmental benefits and lower impacts than landfill and incineration, significantly reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

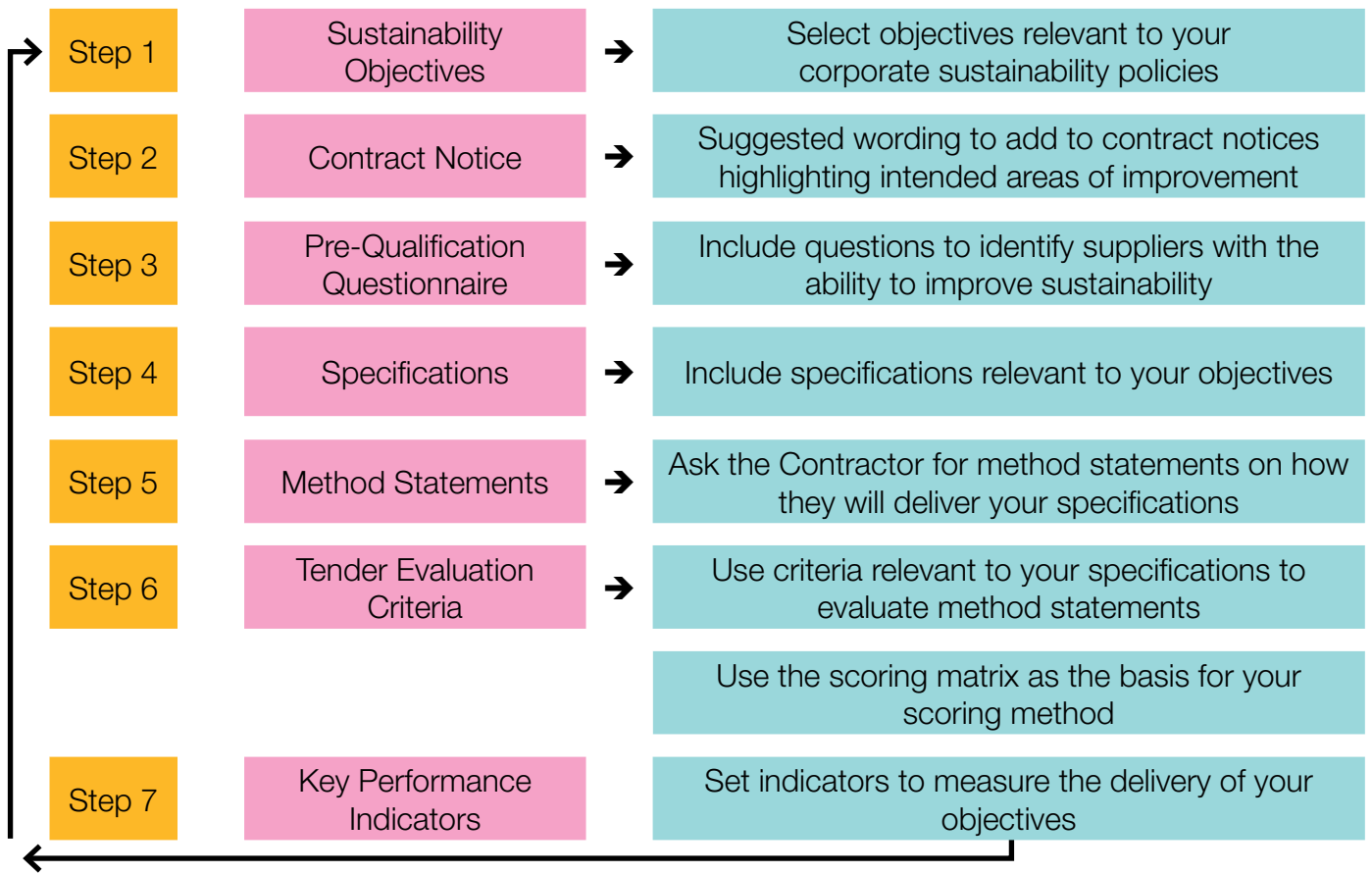
A cost benefit analysis of furniture disposal options indicated that the greatest savings could be achieved by using disposal methods inline with the waste hierarchy outlined by the Waste Strategy for England 2007. It was estimated that up to 70% of furniture could be reused. This report was backed up by savings of 50% between the most sustainable disposal method offered and the least for the London Fire Brigade contract.

## Getting Started

A Furniture Disposal Toolkit has been produced to assist you to build sustainability into the tendering process. The Toolkit provides easy to follow steps which focus on delivering more sustainable methods of furniture disposal and selecting suppliers with sustainability built into their work practices.



# Tendering Toolkit



## Using the Toolkit

The Toolkit is designed to assist users to implement sustainability in the tendering process for a Furniture Disposal service, but will prove useful for most contracts with a disposal element. Follow all or part of the suggested steps, however we recommend that you follow the steps in order; and consult your legal department to ensure compliance with the EU procurement regulations.

## Furniture Supply Contracts

You can use the toolkit in improving the sustainability of your furniture supply contract. Use the specifications and method statement as the basis for introducing a repair and take back scheme into your furniture supply contract and use the tender evaluation criteria as the basis for selecting suppliers with more sustainable practices.

Download the Toolkit at: [www.lcpe.gov.uk/sustainable](http://www.lcpe.gov.uk/sustainable) and follow the link to the Furniture Disposal page.

