

Policy/Procedure title	Supply Chain and Fees Policy 2026-2027	
Review cycle (*Please specify)	Annual	
Responsible department	Partnerships	
Procedure *owner (*Overall responsibility)	Paul Smith	
Responsible *person (if different to above) *responsibility for communicating changes and staff training where appropriate		
Types of provision this procedure applies to: (delete as appropriate)	Partnership Provision – 16 -18 and 19+	
Revision record		
Rev. no.	Date of issue	Details and purpose of revision:
1	19 th November 2025	Policy put into new format
2	17 th June 2026	Update for 2026-2027 academic year

Equality impact assessment

Whenever a policy is reviewed or changed, its impact assessment also must be updated. The Equality Act 2010 seeks to simplify discrimination law and introduced statutory duties to promote equality whereby The College of West Anglia must, in the exercise of its functions, pay due regard to the need to promote equality in relation to the protected characteristics.

Could any staff or students be adversely impacted by this policy/process? If yes give details and how this will be mitigated:

No

Date:	Action and monitoring:

EDI Statement

This procedure has been reviewed in line with the Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment., Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual Orientation and Disability. We will continue to monitor this procedure to ensure that it allows equal access and does not discriminate against any individual or group of people.

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1 Policy Aim & Definition of Terms

Policy Aim

This document aims to provide consistency of approach and transparency to the College's supply-chain fees and charges in relation to its provision subcontracting.

Definition of Terms

Standard Management Fee – this fee is determined by the size of the subcontracted partnership contract (as per Maximum Contract Value figure), and is the fee applied to all such contracts to account for standard costs incurred by the College through its management of these contracts.

Additional Contract Fees – sometimes there will be a need to apply an additional fee to offset direct associated costs incurred by the College in its pursuance of the partnership arrangement. These will be determined on a contract-by-contract basis.

Department for Education (DfE) – the Department for Education is a ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom. It is responsible for child protection, child services, education, apprenticeships, and wider skills in England

2 Context

This policy is a mandatory requirement of the DfE, as stated in the Funding Rules for 2026-2027. This policy supersedes all previous versions, where applicable, and is effective for the 2026-2027 academic year.

3 Reasons for subcontracting

The College recognises the need to offer as diverse a range of provision as possible, in as flexible and cost effective a way as possible. By working in partnership with subcontractors the College is able to do the following:

- Enhance the opportunities available to learners
- Fill gaps in niche or expert provision or provide better access to facilities
- Support better geographical access for learners
- Support an entry point for disadvantaged groups
- Support individuals who share protected characteristics, where there might otherwise be gaps.
- Engage with the wider community, thus increasing wider participation by attracting learners who are unable, or unwilling, to attend provision offered on campus
- Offer flexibility by delivering provision at times and venues convenient to learners and employers
- Be responsive to learner and employer requirements
- Ensure greater cost efficiency
- Engage with new markets
- Achieving growth, where this is consistent with college, local and regional strategic objectives.

4 Improving Quality

The College is committed to continual improvement in teaching, learning and assessment, both in its own direct provision and in its subcontracted provision. A range of approaches are employed in order to do this, such as session observations and Self-Assessment Reports. In terms of provision subcontracting specifically, the following processes are in place to help monitor quality of provision, and actively improve quality on an on-going basis:

- A robust schedule of Quality Assurance Visits that are carried out throughout the year
- Annual Review discussion to be held in the first management meeting of the new academic year with target setting
- Regular management meetings between the College and all its subcontractors (with a minimum of one management meeting per term)
- Training and Development workshops (as appropriate)

5 Fees

Standard Management Fee – This fee is applied to all subcontracted contracts and is the proportion of DfE funding retained by the College to cover standard costs incurred through its management of these contracts. These costs include:

- Administration
- Quality assurance
- Contract management
- MIS functions relating to the submission of funding claims to the DfE
- Provision of management meetings
- Provision of a dedicated named Account Manager
- Provision of professional advice regarding DfE funding matters
- Due Diligence support, guidance and checking.

The College has determined a 20% standard management fee is necessary to provide high quality and compliant subcontracted provision. A breakdown of these costs is set out in the table below. However, some provision is capped by specific funding rules at a 15% standard management fee as set out in the table below:

Elements of the Standard Management Fee	King's Trust Team Programme Provision	All other non-devolved DfE Provision
Partnership Management	5.5%	5.5%
Partnership Administration	5.5%	5.5%
Quality Assurance	2.0%	2.0%
Data Inputting and Management	4.0%	4.0%
MIS Functions	3.0%	3.0%
Total Management Fee	*15%	20.0%

**Capped as specified in paragraph 189. of the DfE Advice: funding rules for 16 to 19 provision 2026-2027*

Additional Contract Fees – In some cases, the College will undertake further, additional functions in terms of supporting the subcontracted provision, such as, but not limited to:

- registering learners with awarding organisations
- incurring the cost of examination fees
- responsibility for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) of provision

In these cases, an Additional Contract Fee will be applied to the subcontracted provision as well as the Standard Management Fee. This fee will be agreed with subcontractors prior to the issuing of contracts and will be reviewed prior to annual re-contracting.

6 Payment Terms

Payment terms will be dependent upon the type and length of provision subcontracted:

- *Classroom Provision* – for programmes of short duration (12 weeks or less) payment will be split between an **on-programme payment** (made after enrolment forms and attendance registers have been received for the entirety of the funded programme and the College is satisfied that learner eligibility and attendance satisfies DfE requirements) and an **achievement payment** (made upon receipt of proof of learner achievement that satisfies DfE requirements). For programmes of longer duration overall payment may be further divided to allow for **on-programme payments** to be made mid-programme or at the end of each academic term or at other defined points during the programme; again payment will be based upon the receipt of appropriate attendance registers for specified periods of the programme and learner completion of the minimum qualifying period as stipulated in current funding guidance and associated publications (as per Section 8 of this policy).

Upon receipt of satisfactory evidence, the College will pay associated invoices within 30 days of the invoice date. This payment will be made by BACS transfer. However, if any supporting evidence is queried by the College, then payment will be withheld until these queries are resolved, and payment will then be made at the earliest possible opportunity.

7 Policy Review

The College will review this policy annually. This review will take place in June of each year, and any policy revisions will be completed and published prior to the commencement of the next academic year.

8 Communication

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to existing subcontractors at contract management meetings. Furthermore, the College will distribute a copy of this policy to all potential new subcontractors and discuss it with them as part of the College's pre-contracting process.

9 Publication of Policy

An up-to-date copy of this policy will be posted on the College's website. Hard copies of the policy will be made available on request.

10 Related Publications

There are a number of Department for Education (DfE) publications that should be referred to in conjunction with this policy that are available at [https://www.gov.uk/education#guidance and regulation](https://www.gov.uk/education#guidance%20and%20regulation) , some of the key documents are listed below:

16 to 19 funding: information for 2026 to 2027
[Department for Education]

16 to 19 funding: 2026 to 2027 rates and formula
[Department for Education]

Adult Skills Fund (ASF): funding rules 2026 to 2027
[Department for Education]

Funded Adult Skills (ASF): funding rates and formula 2026 to 2027
[Department for Education]

11 Approval

This Policy [ver:1] was approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee of the Colleges Corporation on 17th June 2026.