Procurement Bill

What does it mean for Food Partnerships

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Intro information:

- Will apply to England only.
- Aim is to ‘speed up and simplify our procurement processes, place value for money at their heart, generate social value and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery’.
- To move away from a ‘complex EU rules-based approach’.

- Overall the proposals are about simplifying the process of tendering in the public sector, who can challenge decisions etc. It’s full of technical stuff
- Following the consultation, the government made no significant changes to the proposals in the Green Paper. In a few cases it suggested further guidance or more 'flexibility'
- The Bill is REALLY top level – the most popular consultation response was ‘we need more information’ – in response they promised to release more guidance. I don’t think they have done that in the Bill
• A new unit to oversee public procurement, addressing systemic or institutional breaches. Will be focused on actions to ensure future compliance, not punishment (i.e., it won't act as a monitoring and enforcement body) - it's also just a 'small team' of civil servants.

• Strengthened ability to exclude suppliers for misconduct such as fraud, corruption, or poor performance. (This would be helpful - if it’s a requirement for businesses to report publicly on compliance, this would help with enforcement? How would we know they are not meeting the regulations – many are exempt from FOI)

• Allows for creation of a Dynamic Market – but not much about encouraging that to happen

• Broad support for better transparency and making past performance easier to measure, but this section is very vague and unspecific