

Procurement Progress

Winter 2007
Edition 5

Introduction and Highlights

Welcome to the final procurement newsletter from the NWCE for 2007. This year has been a very busy time for the procurement programme with many projects delivering positive results.

Highlights include:

- A [regional procurement portal](#) and eTendering solution to assist all councils to meet their eProcurement targets.
- More than £10m of savings for local authorities from eAuctions for IT hardware, stationery and office furniture.
- A library of standard procurement documents for adoption by all councils in the north west and beyond.
- A strong sustainability programme to support councils in implementing the Government's sustainability targets.
- A series of training and briefing events on many procurement and category topics.

You will be aware that we have consulted on our plans for 08/11 under the CSR07 period. The region's business plan is being prepared by IDeA who are interested in your thoughts. If you have any suggestions on what the programme should contain you can access the consultation site [here](#).

Finally, Olly Baker will be leaving the NWCE this month to undertake new work within local government in the region. We would like to thank Olly for his hard work over the last few years and wish him future success.

We would also like to thank you for your continued support and offer best wishes for 2008.

Project Updates

Further information is available on each project from our web site. If you need any more information, get in touch. Click on the title for the project pages.

Postal Procurement

Councils are continuing to implement the regional postal contract recently awarded to TNT. A list of questions and answers are being collated to help councils with this migration. Details of these FAQs and new National Audit Office Guidance can be found [here](#). You can find out more and visit the sorting office on January 16, 2008. More details are available [here](#).

Frameworks

The NWCE is working with a number of councils to examine local authority spend on magazines and books. It is also working with six councils looking to develop a joint project for buying and maintaining crematoria equipment. Contact [Beatrice Fraser](#) to find out more.

Consultancy

The NWCE is looking to introduce a regional framework for 2nd tier consultancy services that will aim to deliver services at a more cost effective and localised basis than the current frameworks. If you would like to get involved then please email neil.hind@hind.co.uk.

Standards

The standards group continues to make progress with its Phase II deliverables of which details can be found [here](#). The next meeting is planned for January 11, 2008 with details [here](#).

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Sustainable Procurement

A new strategy for local government sustainable procurement has been published. This strategy has been drawn up in response to the recommendations of the Sustainable Procurement Taskforce and in the light of the government response and national action plan published in March 2007 and can be found [here](#).

The NWCE is also supporting a green catalogue of building services related products. You can [access the green catalogue here](#).

A recent presentation from the [Audit Commission](#) has indicated that sustainable procurement will play an important role in future inspection. If you would like to get more involved in the group details of the next meeting on February 5, 2008 in Nelson can be found [here](#).

National Activities

There are a number of national initiatives that the NWCE are heavily involved with. A number of new 'On The Money' guides have been published [here](#) on energy, fleet, fuel, ICT, print services, telecoms and translation services.

There are also a number of 'How To' guides on consultancy, insurance, energy buying, eAuctions and social housing that can be found [here](#).

The NWCE is also representing local government on the OGC Commodities Management Group. Working with the other RCEs, local government will have representation on a number of working groups looking at procurement collaboration in categories including Travel, Office Solutions, Energy, Consultancy, ICT, Fleet and Food.

More details will be made available as these groups develop.

Events

Details of upcoming events are below. Click on the link to book your place today. Presentations from previous events are also available.

BT/Telecoms Workshop

BT has introduced charges that has impacted on many local authorities. Rebates are available by contacting your account manager by December 31.

Sustainable Procurement Conference

A sustainable procurement conference brought together a number of key elements.

"Free" Sustainability Training

January 29, 2008 at Red Rose Hub, Preston: A repeat of the November 13 session.

"The Chest" User Group

January 31, 2008 in Manchester: The reformed national user group of ProContract will meet.

Contact Details

The teams contact details are as below. All can be contacted via 0161 342 2839 or on email.

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