



PRESS RELEASE

Final

October 5, 2007

Picture enclosed

South Africa mission drops in on NWCE

A BUSINESS delegation from South Africa, on a mission to find out about procurement in the UK, have spent a day with the North West Centre of Excellence.

The delegation from the Eastern Cape Province were guests of CIPS and spent seven days in the UK learning about public and private sector procurement in the UK.

The group consisted of staff from the South African Treasury, their Department of Health, the Office of the South African Premier, the Office of Public Works and their Department of Transport.

Their visit to the North West Centre of Excellence allowed them to learn about the work the centre has been doing with local authorities in the region to improve procurement practices and efficiency and make savings.

They were also keen to learn about how UK organisations structure procurement across different types of business and sectors and the added value the NWCE has brought to local authorities in the region.

The group's visit to the NWCE was part of a wider, seven-day, tour of the UK and also included meetings with representatives from the Department of Work and Pensions, British Aerospace and Sony.

CIPS membership services manager Sheila White commented: "From a CIPS perspective, the NWCE helped to portray us in a positive light and the topics covered by the NWCE for our visitors were pitched at the right level."

Phillip Booi, representing The Treasury, from the delegation, commented: "I found the information from the NWCE to be very much relevant and helpful. I have learnt new things that can improve procurement and add value to my environment."

Colin Cram, regional director of the NWCE, commented: "It was interesting and enlightening to see how our CIPS colleagues in South Africa tackle the challenges they face in procurement compared with the way we do things.

"Our visitors shared a wealth of information with us and were impressed by the creation of centres of excellence as catalysts for change in local authority procurement practices."

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PICTURE CAPTION

The South African delegation and their Tameside hosts are pictured outside Ashton Town Hall, headquarters of Tameside Council, the host authority for the North West Centre of Excellence.

Notes for Editors

The delegation arrived in the UK on Sunday, September 30 and is due to fly back to South African on Sunday, October 7. The visit to the NWCE took place on Tuesday, October 2.

The NWCE is one of nine regional centres of excellence and are the lead change agencies for local government efficiency. They are supporting councils to secure millions of pounds in efficiencies that are being reinvested in better front-line services. Uniquely placed to bring councils together, they are run by local government, bring additional capacity and are results focused.

Issued on behalf of the North West Centre of Excellence by:

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