



# PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

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## ALL POINTS LEAD TO DUE NORTH

The North West Centre of Excellence has appointed a team of experts to provide a regional procurement portal and eTendering solution.

Due North has been chosen to provide the suite of software which is scheduled to go live to all local authorities in the north west later this summer. It will first be piloted by Cumbria County Council.

The portal will provide authorities with the tools they need to carry out sourcing and tendering of goods and services on-line.

The benefits are considerable. The National eProcurement Programme has stated that savings of up to 25 per cent per OJEU contract can be made using eSourcing.

Councils can achieve the savings by collaborating on contracts, improving the management of their procurement processes and standardising tendering and contract documentation across the region.

The portal will also particularly useful for smaller authorities with limited procurement resources.

Due North won the contract which also includes a framework agreement after stiff competition.

The framework agreement is open to all public sector bodies and means that any public sector organisation can take advantage of the Due North products without having to go to tender.

Alan Ratcliffe, head of strategic & commercial procurement at Cumbria commented: "The County Council, along with our colleagues in the districts, will now use the portal and e-tendering system to improve our own processes and to assist those suppliers seeking opportunities to trade with us.

"The use of such technology will provide a single point of information for all potential suppliers enabling us to secure better contracts and to develop common tendering systems across each council. "

Neil Hind, NWCE procurement programme manager said: "This is a major project for the region which will be of huge benefit to local authorities and suppliers. We are looking forward to rolling out the system – and to some significant savings and benefits being made for all parties."

ENDS

#### **Notes for Editors**

**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.**

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