



*Knowsl@y Council*

**KNOWSLEY EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY  
FRAMEWORK FOR PROCUREMENT EVENT**

**Monday 25 June 2007**

**Huyton Suite – Knowsley**

For the majority of Local Authorities across England the overriding consistent feature is their participation in and subscription to the Local Government Association Equality Standards. The standards have specific sections which refer to the development of procedures for equality and diversity within the area of procurement.

Equality and diversity focussed procurement procedures is a problematic agenda, requiring the establishment of a pre-qualification tool to ensure that service providers (contractors and partners) have and implement, equal opportunities within their service delivery and employment.

Various groups from across the region (AGMA, NWRCE, and Joint Merseyside Authorities) have been considering the implications of this issue and have arranged a joint seminar/conference to be held in Knowsley on 25 June 2007.

In January your Chief Executive will have received a standard circular from the “West Midlands Forum” advising on the development of an equalities model for common standards in public sector procurement. Alan Butt, Chair of the West Midlands Equalities Forum has kindly agreed to come along to the event and present the Model.

To compliment Alan’s model we have also invited Mike Chambers, Deputy Chief Executive of Oldham MBC and Carol Daniels, Procurement Manager and Victoria Mather, Policy Officer Bolton MBC to present their alternative approaches.

We believe this event provides officers from across the North West an ideal opportunity to discuss and network on these key issues and provide delegates with some examples of support options available to individual authorities or any “family group” within their region.

We hope you can come along. If you are interested in attending please contact;

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## OUTLINE OF EVENT

- 9:30 Refreshments on arrival
- 10:00 Sheena Ramsey – Welcome to Knowsley
- 10:10 Paul Peng, Corporate Equality and Diversity Manager, Knowsley MBC – Introduction and outline of day
- 10:20 Joyce Redfearn, Secretary AGMA and Chief Executive Wigan MBC to open event
- 10:30 Alan Butt, Chair West Midlands Equalities Forum – Introduction to West Midlands Forum Model
- 11:00 Break
- 11:20 Due North, NWRCE – Supplier Portal demonstration
- 12:00 Mike Chambers Deputy Chief Executive Oldham MBC & Bob Hogg Managing Director Unity Partnership - 'Equality within the Procurement Process in Practice'
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Carol Daniels, Procurement Manager and Victoria Mather, Policy Officer Bolton MBC to discuss Bolton Model
- 2:00 Mandy Wright, Associate Director of Workforce for Diversity issues, IDeA. Equalities Review – Procurement implications
- 2:20 Question and answer session
- 2:50 Closing Remarks (Paul Peng)

