

Procurement Progress

Summer 2007
Edition 3

Introduction and highlights

Welcome to the third procurement newsletter of 2007. Since the last newsletter we have seen the second Bargain Hunt event take place with all presentations still available [here](#).

Also, please have a look at our new 'Call For Help' section. If you are looking for help or information from your colleagues or have thoughts for collaboration then let us know. Enjoy the summer (if it ever comes) and more news in the autumn!

Project Updates

More details will be added to the relevant projects on the web site over the next few months. If you need any more information, get in touch. Contact details are below or click on the title for the project pages.

The Strategic Management of Third Party Spend project issues its own newsletters but details can be found [here](#).

Standards

The North West Standards Group has progressed well in the areas on which it has led for the partnership, preparing and validating standard tender letters, contract procedure rules and guidance.

The work on the Equality and Diversity Policy is progressing with an event in late June. A sub-group looking at marketing, take-up and benefits realisation has agreed a number of articles to promote this work. The work with the NECE is also progressing well and it is anticipated that the contracts and tender documents will be completed to time when they will be forwarded for validating.

Portal & eSourcing

After a quick survey it has been agreed to name the solution 'The Chest', building on the 'The Vault' theme. The project is still on course to go live in mid August with the AGMA and Cumbria sub-regions. The project is now looking at supplier adoption and is looking to work with Business Link and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

The project is developing a portal guide for other prospective users. The guide will detail how the NWCE have implemented the portal for the AGMA authorities and will include topics such as supplier adoption approach and plans, process flows, branding requirements, user roles, training, testing. Once complete, it should offer a fast-track guide for other sub-regions looking to implement the portal.

Postal Procurement

A workshop was held in early June to enable Civica to run through the data collection process with the interested councils. Twenty councils are participating in the data collection exercise and data collection forms need to be returned to Civica by July 27. The data will be analysed and each council will receive a statement providing details on their current spending and projected savings.

Civica will make a recommendation on potentially changing suppliers and a procurement exercise will begin with those councils who wish to progress. The goal of the project is still to have one or several frameworks for local authorities to be able to use.

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Sustainable Procurement

The Sustainable Procurement workstream has now met for the second time. The group is planning a comprehensive range of deliverables to ensure that all north west authorities meet the level 1 flexible framework requirements.

Initial actions involve:

- Production of goods practice case studies
- Listing all sources of information and current projects
- Sourcing a toolkit that will help implement flexible frameworks
- Identifying social enterprise companies in the region to look for joint working opportunities.

The NWCE is also now working with the NWDA, NHS and other local organisations on a regional approach.

Call For Help

Please let us know if you can help with any of the below:

Sealed Wage Slips and Printed Cheque Supplies: If you have a contract already in place or would like to collaborate for their procurement, let us know.

Prince 2 Training: Several councils are looking for training providers. If you have the skills in-house that could help, please send details.

Sustainability Contacts: We want to build a list of officers responsible for sustainability. If you have made such an appointment, please send details to neil.hind@hind.co.uk.

Events

Details of upcoming events are below. Click on the link to book your place today.

[Estates and Property Services](#) – July 19

[Standards Group Meeting](#) – July 26

[Training - Procurement Processes](#) – Sept 13

[P-Cards: What Next?](#) – Sept 20

We will also be holding a workshop during August to help the NWCE plan for further procurement funding. Keep watching the web site for details.

Contact Details

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

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