

SHOWCASING PROCUREMENT EXCELLENCE

STREAMLINING LOCAL AUTHORITY PROCUREMENT

Yorkshire and Humber lead the way for greater procurement efficiency

With 22 local authorities currently operating in the Yorkshire and Humber region, there is tremendous potential for achieving greater efficiency, through the alignment of procurement processes.

In line with objectives set out in the Gershon Report, the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Centre of Excellence is working with a number of local authorities, including Leeds City Council, to create a unique database of approved suppliers that can be accessed by every local authority in

the region, streamlining procurement and significantly reducing duplication and paperwork.

The scheme will be piloted with one local authority in each of the four subregions in Yorkshire and the Humber.

There is currently no link between the existing procurement processes of local authorities in the region. Initial investigations by the Regional Centre found that local authorities are often asking the same questions of suppliers, and receiving the same applications, causing unnecessary cost for both local authority and supplier alike.

“The amount of existing duplication revealed across local authorities in the region is staggering. By setting up one central supplier database we will ensure greater efficiency, and ease of access to information. There is no doubt that the service will help promote many of the key building blocks relating to collaborative working, standardisation, aggregation, and procurement management, demystifying and removing some of the perceptions that suppliers currently have about working with councils.”

Steve Kelvin, Policy and Strategy Officer, Leeds City Council



The objectives of a supplier and contract management system (SCMS) are clear:

- To reduce unnecessary duplication
- To supply a central point of information for all local authorities, ensuring quick and easy access to information
- To reduce time investment for suppliers
- To achieve greater procurement efficiency, ultimately leading to an improvement in front-line services
- To improve regional economic impact by making it easier for suppliers to do business with councils in the region.

A step by step process

Step1

Suppliers (contractors / consultants / service providers) will have direct access to the SCMS website and will be able to register their details and apply for inclusion on one or more approved lists maintained by participating councils

Step2

Suppliers specify which councils they want to work for, and which categories of work they wish to be considered for. Once approved, suppliers manage their own data, updating it as required

Step3

Councils select approved suppliers from the core database to undertake procurement projects on an individual basis or in collaboration with one or more other councils

“It is by creating and embracing systems such as this that we will succeed in achieving true collaboration and greater levels of efficiency across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Ultimately the result of this will be an improvement to frontline public services, thanks to greater alignment of thinking and strategy. We believe that this system will set a blueprint for the rest of the UK to work towards.”

Tony Wiltshire, Regional Director, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Centre of Excellence

Working in partnership: Key benefits that the database will bring

- Suppliers are only required to complete the application process once. Registration data obtained is a 'catch all', removing the necessity to keep going back to the supplier for more information
- Once approved, suppliers manage their own data, removing the administrative burden on local authorities
- Automatic prompts for information are sent out and a failure to supply necessary information will result in a temporary suspension from approved lists, ensuring the quality of suppliers registered
- Suppliers have access to information relating to forthcoming tenders, how frequently lists are used, how many other suppliers are on the same list, and other general procurement information
- Quality and health and safety checks are enforced and failure to comply results in exclusion from the system
- An e-tendering capability is developed for all local authorities in the region

To find out more about the procurement system contact:-

Tony Wiltshire, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Centre of Excellence:
Saint George House, 1st Floor, 40 Great George Street, Leeds, LS1 3DL
Tel: 0113 247 4483 Email: tony.wiltshire@leeds.gov.uk

For more information on the efficiency agenda and to contact your Regional Centre of Excellence go to <http://www.rcoe.gov.uk>