

AGENDA ITEM 4

WELSH PURCHASING CONSORTIUM

MANAGEMENT BOARD

25TH June 2014

National Procurement Service Developments

- 1 Members will recall being advised that a meeting was to be held on 6th May with NPS representatives to take forward the handover of WPC Arrangements which the WPC has formally agreed are “common and repetitive in nature”.
- 2 At this meeting the WPC was represented by the Chair of the Officers Group, Chairs of the WPC Category Groups, the Secretary to the WPC, the WPC Procurement Manger and local government representatives on the NPS Delivery Group. Our primary objective was to agree a pragmatic timetable that would ensure a timely transfer of responsibility regarding these particular Arrangements and protect WPC member Authorities whilst ensuring continuity of supply.
- 3 A formal “Transfer Protocol” as been agreed with the NPS which WPC Lead Authorities will complete on a contract by contract basis. This will provide the NPS with comprehensive contract management related information which will help the NPS in developing strategies for new “All Wales” arrangements. A number have been completed and the NPS are taking these forward as there is some urgency in terms of them establishing compliant, value for money arrangements which can be accessed by WPC Authorities by agreed dates.
- 4 Immediately prior to the meeting WPC representatives received a communication from the NPS which included a list of additional WPC Arrangements that were not specifically listed and/or referred to in the original NPS Outline Business Case but which are now highlighted by the NPS as being potentially “common and repetitive” and therefore candidates for transfer to the NPS in the medium/long term.
- 5 Following some debate WPC representatives agreed to refer this additional list of Arrangements to WPC Category Groups for consideration.
- 6 Most of the Category Groups have met and commented, however there is still some uncertainty particularly in terms of responsibility for Food procurement going forward.

- 7 These comments have been discussed at length at the WPC Officers Group as there are significant implications for the formal review of the WPC. The Board is reminded that the WPC position on Food procurement is that it either transfers as a whole category or stays within the WPC portfolio. It is noted that the NPS Outline Business Case is predicated on the adoption of a formal category management approach.
- 8 The Board is advised that if Food does transfer to the NPS then the current WPC portfolio is likely to reduce to approximately 16 Arrangements. If Food stays within the WPC then this rises to approximately 26 Arrangements.
- 9 The Board will be aware that local government is represented by four experienced senior Procurement professionals (from WPC member Authorities) on the NPS Delivery Group who regularly update the WPC Officers Group and subsequently the Board. The Delivery Group Meeting Papers are distributed to Heads of Procurement in all WPC Authorities.

Rob Jones
WPC Procurement Manager