



## Smarter Procurement Programme Newsletter

### Funded Projects

The South West RIEP Smarter Procurement Programme has now approved funding of £448k to support 8 innovative, collaborative and difficult projects.

Funding has been agreed to support authorities across the region with such projects as an integrated transport programme in Dorset and a highways procurement project in South Gloucestershire.

A region wide sustainable procurement network project is being led by Bristol City Council, and The Fire and Rescue Services have been funded to develop specific procurement training materials to support a national programme.

The projects aim to provide over £12m in savings over 5 years. For more information on any of the projects, please contact Claire Morecroft – email [sarah.brady@southwest-ra.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.brady@southwest-ra.gov.uk)

Further funding is still available for innovative, collaborative and difficult projects on a 50% funding or loan basis. If you would like to apply for funding email Gillian Brindle at [gillian.brindle@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.brindle@swcouncils.gov.uk) for an initial discussion.

### Contract and Opportunities Portal

The South West contract and opportunities portal is called Supplying the South West, and aims to help councils and suppliers work together.

The portal enables each local authority within the South West to advertise all contract opportunities and all awarded contracts on one central portal, giving suppliers the ability to view information from all local authorities, and if applicable express their interest in forthcoming opportunities in one central place.

The main benefits to your organisation are:

- Access to many suppliers creating increased competition and hence best value
- Access to view many contracts enabling them to share in good contracts
- Giving access to the information needed to facilitate collaboration through the region and prevent unnecessary contracts being awarded
- The ability to collaborate with other departments/organisations in procuring goods and services thus using the aggregation of requirements to leverage better contracts



**SOUTH WEST**  
REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT  
& EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP

For suppliers this regional portal gives a one-stop shop window on contract opportunities from a growing number of councils in the South West. Even without registering, suppliers can use the portal to look for information about existing contracts and new opportunities.

Participating Councils currently include Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bournemouth Borough Council, Gloucestershire County Council and South Gloucestershire Council, but we anticipate many more councils in the South West will join in the near future.

All South West local authorities are able to register on the portal to see how it works and see the benefits it may bring to your organisation.

Local authorities interested in posting contracts and opportunities on the portal should email Gillian Brindle at [gillian.brindle@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.brindle@swcouncils.gov.uk) for more information.

Visit their website at [www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk](http://www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk)

## New e-Auction Programme

The SW RIEP has entered into a new contract with e-Three to provide e-auction support across the region.

The programme has yet to be developed, so if you would like to influence or take advantage of the support available, please email Claire Morecroft at [c.morecroft@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:c.morecroft@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

## SW RIEP e-Procurement Helpline: 0870 850 1592

The SW RIEP e-procurement helpline is available for any staff member from any of the local authorities, Police or Fire and Rescue Services in the South West to call the guidance or advice on their e-procurement activities.

The helpline is operational between 9am and 5pm during working days, and will allow all staff to have free access to valuable experience and advice on e-procurement. The helpline is staffed by Ticon who has been working in Local Government e-procurement for several years, and have a good understanding of the issues surrounding e-procurement, the targets facing councils and the progress that many councils have made with e-procurement in the South West.

For further information please email Stephen Jones at [stephen.jones@ticon.uk.com](mailto:stephen.jones@ticon.uk.com)

## Bath and North East Somerset Awards Office Recycling Contract

Bath and North East Somerset Council has recently appointed May Gurney to carry out an office recycling service for each of its main corporate offices and libraries. Previously a band of staff volunteers took responsibility for separating out recyclables in Council offices, but the formal award of this contract is expected to lead to higher levels of recycling and a reduction in residual waste.

The consolidation of responsibility for office recycling into one contractor is expected to reduce the amount of carbon emissions generated by several contractors calling on Council offices and lead to a more efficient collection and sorting service.

Commenting on the contract award, Eddy Hale, Corporate Procurement Manager for Bath and North East Somerset Council said:

*“This Council has always had a good reputation for its work in collecting and recycling household waste and this new contract for our own offices will help to ensure that we continue to build on our efforts to reduce reuse and recycle unwanted materials”.*

For addition information please contact Eddy Hale on 01225 477334 or [Eddy\\_Hale@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:Eddy_Hale@BATHNES.GOV.UK)

## Grey Fleet

Grey Fleet travel refers to mileage in employee-owned vehicles - a grey area, where millions of hidden miles are travelled each year and often overlooked by employers and employees alike.



This means that if you are a public sector organisation looking to make cost savings, reduce environmental impact, or better manage the risks related to driving for work, grey fleet is an important place to focus your attention.

Do you know how many grey fleet miles your employees travel each year? Many public sector organisations have been surprised to uncover the extent of the mileage covered in grey fleet vehicles.

Management of grey fleet can help generate many benefits.

Staff and line managers must make the following assessments prior to making each business journey.

### Can the need for the journey be achieved through the use of audio or videoconferencing facilities?

If so, these should always be the first option to help remove all CO2 emissions and the bulk of the cost per journey.



### Can the journey be carried out by public transport – rail, tube, bus or tram?

Public transport is an especial requirement for all journeys between urban centres. It is a safer mode of transport than the car, generally results in lower emissions, and can be more business efficient taking into account ability to work, road delays, etc.



### Is there an official car available for the journey?

If you travel over 8,000 business miles each year, you may qualify for a lease car and this is strongly recommended as the most cost effective option for you. If you do not qualify for a lease car, consider borrowing one from a colleague.



### Is there a pool car available for the journey?

For round trips over 100 miles, employees are required to use a pool car (where one is available) or a hire car as an alternative to grey fleet. Pool cars are newer cars, managed and maintained for employee usage. By maximising use of the pool car fleet, carbon emissions and costs can be reduced.



### Will a hire car be cost effective?

For round trips over 100 miles, employees are required to use a pool car or hire car as an alternative to grey fleet.

Hire cars provide better value for longer journeys and typically have lower emissions levels than grey fleet vehicles.



**Where none of the above options is available, authorised grey fleet may be used for round trips under 100 miles**  
Employees may only use their grey fleet vehicle for journeys under 100 miles provided that they are able to display to their line manager that they have a valid driving licence, full business insurance, up-to-date MOT and service history.

More information about grey fleet including, toolkits, case studies, etc can be found from the following link:

[http://www.ogc.gov.uk/commodities\\_procurement\\_fleet\\_8595.asp](http://www.ogc.gov.uk/commodities_procurement_fleet_8595.asp)

## Events

### **Category Management Event** **3 March 2009 (10am – 3pm)** **Taunton Rugby Club, Somerset**

Suitable for procurement professionals and senior managers engaged in the transformation agenda, this process transformation workshop will provide delegates with first hand experience of transforming from traditional procurement into a category management approach.

The workshop, supported by Dorset County Council and its implementation partner ADR – International, will include topics such as defining and managing categories, developing processes and protocols, stakeholder management and investment in training and development.

The workshop will be interactive and delegates will be given the opportunity to see an early case study from Dorset on how the principles of category management have already brought significant savings. Download additional information and book your place online from the following link:  
[www.southwestiep.gov.uk/Events/Eventcategorymanagement.htm](http://www.southwestiep.gov.uk/Events/Eventcategorymanagement.htm)

### **CRiSPS Local Government Developing Supply Strategy - University of Bath MBA Module**

South West RIEP and Improvement and Efficiency South East are committed to developing the strategic knowledge of procurement professionals.

The CRiSPS (Centre for Research in Strategic Purchasing and Supply) Local Government Developing Supply Strategy is an exciting MBA module which offers local authority officers insight into the cutting-edge thinking behind strategic procurement and supply strategy. We are delighted to offer local authorities this opportunity to gain a post graduate certificate level education.

This course aims to provide leading-edge education in Supply Strategy to senior personnel who will have strategic impact on local government in supply issues and decisions. It has been specifically crafted for senior managers with procurement at the heart of their responsibilities.

The course will be running from 2009-2011. For details on how to get involved please go to:  
[www.southeastiep.gov.uk/page.asp?PageRef=149](http://www.southeastiep.gov.uk/page.asp?PageRef=149)

For further information please contact:  
Gillian Brindle at  
[gillian.brindle@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.brindle@swcouncils.gov.uk)

**If you would like to submit an article to this newsletter contact:**

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