



Smarter Procurement Programme Newsletter

South West RIEP

The South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP) was set up by authorities in June 2006 as a “hub” to drive innovation and progress against regional priorities and to share information and knowledge in conjunction with other public sector bodies and support agencies. Previously known as “LIFT SW”, we have a good track record in supporting authorities to deliver change in the region.

Over the next three years SW RIEP will receive £23m, subject to performance, to support local authorities and other public bodies across a number of workstreams. These vary from bespoke support for councils or services in difficulty, through regional programmes of support, to pump-priming for innovative or collaborative projects: key themes being CSR07 efficiency gains, Local Area Agreement (LAA) priority outcomes, community empowerment and economic leadership.

The programmes will improve regional performance and support authorities to deliver up to £60m in efficiency gains, over half of which will come from the Smarter Procurement Programme.

Like many regions, the South West has built up a good track record of council-led improvement over the last three years, but more can be done to help authorities support each other. How well councils and their partners gain tangible support from being a part of a RIEP is down to their commitment and participation.

So if you are from the South West and are an authority that needs help or support on a wide range of improvement or efficiency subjects, as your first port of call please contact SW RIEP

www.southwestiep.gov.uk

Smarter Procurement Programme - new activities, support and funding

The Smarter Procurement Programme is a £1.5m three year programme covering both improvement and efficiency in the South West procurement sector. The programme is split into five work streams - further details of which can be obtained from the Delivery Plan on www.southwestiep.gov.uk.



1. Regional Capacity Programme -

Bid-for funding to provide capacity for innovative, collaborative and difficult projects. Support can be given to collaborative bids that support wider public-sector working and a category-based approach. The Regional Capacity Programme has an indicative budget of around £750k for 2008-11. Bids will be accepted on a **match funding** or 'loan' basis with repayment in years 2 and 3.

2. Technological Capacity - This includes a continuation of the existing eAuction programme, resource to manipulate and analyse spend and transaction data from the existing spend analysis to provide information to support collaboration and other projects within the programme. The newly launched Contract and Opportunities portal in the South West will also be further developed.

3. Support Activity - Regional support will provide an information service and work with authorities to meet the demands of responsible procurement with regard to sustainability, 3rd sector and local markets. A collaborative programme working with the top 10 providers by transaction in the South West (covering about 130k transactions per annum) to aggregate billing and payment arrangements with authorities is being launched. Also work with regional agents of the DCSF Educational Procurement Centre (driving good procurement practice in schools) and national organisations such as OGC. The programme will continue to support the procurement helpline - www.southwestiep.gov.uk/workstreams/procurement/sweprocurementhelpline.htm and contract evaluation service - www.southwestiep.gov.uk/workstreams/procurement/contractevaluation/service.htm.

4. Skills Development - Funding of training activities aimed at building capacity within the procurement sector at all levels to senior managers and Members. There will be a continuation of the

Bath University MBA purchasing and supply module -

www.southwestiep.gov.uk/skillsdevelopment/devsupplystrategy.htm

(South East Improvement & Efficiency Programme led) course. Authorities will be asked to nominate individuals for the MBA training course and the mentoring scheme.

5. Communication - Dissemination of information on processes, experiences, best practice and lessons learned both from the programme and from other initiatives in the UK.

The communication, support activity and technological capacity programmes are centrally run programmes. If authorities require support in any of these areas they should contact the Smarter Procurement programme manager in the first instance.

Contact Gillian Brindle on 01305 757232 or g.brindle@dorsetcc.gov.uk for any further information regarding the Smarter Procurement Programme.

Funding Now Available...

...You can now get involved with the SW RIEP Smarter Procurement Programme by applying for funding for specific activity.

The SW RIEP Management Board have approved a 2008/09 budget of £540k against an indicative total three year budget of £1,485k; around 6% of the overall RIEP funding. The aim of the programme is to **support activity outside of traditional procurement and encourage collaboration and innovation across organisations.**

The Smarter Procurement Programme Board is now inviting funding bids to provide capacity for **innovative, collaborative and difficult projects**, specifically within the Regional Capacity Programme (project 1). Collaborative bids that support wider public-sector working will be encouraged (particularly around lead-LSPs). The Regional Capacity Programme has an indicative

budget of around £750k for 2008-11. Bids will be accepted on a match-funding basis, although there is also an opportunity for SW RIEP to 'loan' money with pay-back in years 2 and 3.

The Smarter Procurement Programme is targeted with making £20m savings over 5 years, therefore bids should be related to adding capacity to make savings in specific spend categories, namely transport, vehicles and fleet, temporary staffing, utilities, ICT, insurance, highways and buildings maintenance.

If you are interested in bidding for funding you need to refer to the delivery plan document (specifically section 4.1) and also discuss your proposals with the Programme Manager, prior to receiving the bid document templates for completion.

The bid submission time-table for the regional capacity programme is as follows:

- £220k in January 2009
- £200k in April 2009 (subject to 2009/10 funding approval)
- £150k in July 2009 (subject to 2009/10 funding approval)

Contract and Opportunities Portal

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

For suppliers this portal gives a one-stop-shop for 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.

Suppliers can register free of charge, and can:

- post a company profile, indicating what sorts of opportunity they are interested in
- receive email notifications whenever opportunities matching their profile become available
- register an expression of interest in a published opportunity and request contract documentation to be sent

Participating Councils currently include: Bath & North East Somerset, 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.

Local authorities interested in posting contracts and opportunities on the portal should contact Gillian Brindle on g.brindle@dorsetcc.gov.uk

www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk

SW RIEP e-Procurement Helpline: 0870 850 1592
stephen.jones@ticon.uk.com

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 for guidance or advice on their e-procurement activities.

The helpline is operational between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, 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.

Events

6 November 2008 - Professional Services Event - How to make savings in Temporary Staff and Consultancy in CSR 07 (Taunton)

This event, hosted by SW RIEP, aims to address spend within temporary staffing and consultancy by providing practical and collaborative ways in which organisations can seek to gain better value for money. Category experts from both local and central Government will share their market knowledge, provide case studies and share tools and techniques to support improvements to

procurement and the use of resources across the region within temporary staffing and consultancy. The workshop will explore the possibility of collaboration within these high spend areas and will be of particular interest to procurement, HR and finance professionals.

www.southwestiep.gov.uk/Events/Eventprofessionalservices0601108.htm

18 November 2008 – ProClass Toolkit Launch and Training Event (Taunton)

This event is suitable for all local authorities and any public sector organisation that wishes to understand more about ProClass - the procurement classification standard for local government, as well as other classification and coding structures.

The programme will help attendees to:

- Use ProClass properly and with confidence that it is the right choice
- Hear about authorities which have tested and proven ProClass and its recommended methodologies
- Learn how to use ProClass to support corporate goals of effective collaboration, improved shared services and realistic business case development
- Understand the opportunities for you to influence and benefit from the ProClass community
- Network with other authorities who are trying to achieve the same things

www.southwestiep.gov.uk/Events/Eventproclass181108.htm

3 March 2009 – Category Management Event (Taunton)

Please put this date in your diary. Further details to follow.

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

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

The CRiSPS 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 again be running from 2009-2011. For details on how to get involved please visit:

www.southeastiep.gov.uk/page.asp?PageRef=149

For further information please contact: Gillian Brindle at g.brindle@dorsetcc.gov.uk or 01305 757232.



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

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