



MORAY PROCUREMENT INITIATIVE - BUSINESS INFORMATION LINK

The Moray Council continually seeks to improve the way in which it operates in order to deliver best value and quality services to the community. We are working to address barriers to business by developing and operating effective procurement practices that ensure fairness and transparency in the way we procure.

It is important to us that we keep you informed and advised of any procurement developments that may affect the way in which we do business with you. This newsletter is the first in a series of planned communications to update you with current developments from the Scottish Government's Public Procurement Reform Programme.

In November 2004, the Scottish Executive published a report "Building a Better Scotland, Efficient Government – Securing Efficiency, Effectiveness and Productivity." Within the report the Government undertook to conduct a review of public procurement. The Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform announced in 2005 that John McClelland would conduct the detailed review of public sector procurement in Scotland. The McClelland Report was published on 15th March 2006 and made more than eighty recommendations for improvement.

In response to the report the Scottish Procurement Directorate appointed a Public Procurement Reform Board to spearhead the development of initiatives and programmes to address and implement Sir John McClelland's recommendations.

A key finding of the McClelland Report was that there is a genuine opportunity to achieve significant financial savings across the public sector in Scotland through increased collaborative procurement. The report also recognised that neither the public sector framework, the people, nor the technology were in place to deliver these savings. It also highlighted the benefits of collaboration within public organisations for the development of skills, the compliance with regulations and the placing of contract opportunities. To this end a National Procurement Centre of Expertise has

been established within the Scottish Government Procurement Directorate, which will be responsible for procuring all cross-public sector National Contracts.

Over the past 18 months, progress has been made in addressing some of the challenges the report identified in these areas. In addition to the National Centre of Expertise, sectoral Centres of Procurement Expertise have also been developed. This includes Scotland Excel - the centre of expertise for the local authority sector.

Scotland Excel aims to achieve best value for public services by securing significant reductions through increased collaboration, improved procurement performance and enhanced supplier relationships. In doing so, Scotland Excel will create a strategic partnership of all 32 councils. They will liaise with the National Centre of Procurement Expertise and facilitate and coordinate input from the sector in the development of national commodities that are used across the whole public sector.

Scotland Excel will formally commence activities on 1 April 2008 and will have its main headquarters in Paisley, plus regional offices in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness. Regional offices will focus on working with the local procurement staff, as required, to assist in the investigation and development of clustering arrangements across local councils.

The Moray Council is working with Scotland Excel to promote local supplier engagement in collaborative contracts and we are currently investigating innovative ways of bringing you supplier development events to help you prepare for the delivery of collaborative contracts. We also plan to publish regular newsletters that will feature items such as Supply Chain Management, Sustainable Procurement and eCommerce.

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