

Welcome...

Welcome to the summer 2012 edition of "Procure It Now". This is the first newsletter from iNetwork that has taken over the management of the regional procurement network from the North West Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP).

This edition includes an introduction to iNetwork and a summary of plans for the next few months. There are also the regular updates from regional and national activities.

Please note: some content may now be restricted to iNetwork members and you may need to login to the LGAs Knowledge Hub first at <https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/>.

An Introduction to iNetwork

iNetwork is operated from Tameside MBC and was formerly known as NWEFG. Since its creation nine years ago it has a proven track record of delivery in a wide range of local government and more recently wider public sector reform initiatives.

iNetwork is a subscription based organisation with the majority of north west local authorities already being members including a number of the regions Police and Fire & Rescue services. A full list can be found [here](#).

Attendance to events and some content will unfortunately be limited to subscribing members but please let us know if not a member and would like subscription details. Costs start from £500 per annum for district councils.

Recently membership has been extended to include all NHS North organisations. A pilot membership is also in place that has extended membership to all authorities within the Yorkshire & Humberside region. New events and initiatives will be established to represent the wider membership.

More details can be found via the iNetwork web site at <http://i-network.org.uk/>, via twitter by following [@theinetwork](#) or on the LGAs Knowledge Hub group at [iNetwork](#).

Planned Events

The following events are available free of charge to iNetwork members or at a cost of £295 for non-members.

Using Pre-paid Cards for Payments and Personal Budgets

Thu 21st June 9.45am, Wakefield

There is growing evidence to show that the use of pre-paid cards is generating significant financial savings and transforming how services operate. This event will look at latest guidance, examples of good practice plus allow for discussion and debate on implementing. This event is free to all and can be booked by emailing procurementservices@ypo.co.uk.

Procurement Update: Social Value Act & Community Right to Challenge

Tue 10th July 9.30am Manchester

This session is aimed at Procurement and Legal professionals who will be impacted on new legislation, especially around the Public Services (Social Value) Act & Community Right to Challenge. The legal updates will be provided by Michael Mousdale from Trowers & Hamblins. Places can be reserved at: <http://proclegal.eventbrite.com/>.

Utilising the G-Cloud for IT Procurement

Date & Location to be confirmed

A new way to procure certain IT categories has been introduced by the Cabinet Office. This event will introduce the services available. It will also look at how good and services can be procured.

The initial focus is on introducing cloud ICT services into government departments, local authorities and the wider public sector. The project has put in place a procurement framework for services under the OJEU process. At present there are 4 categories of services: Infrastructure, Software, Platform and Specialist Services.

More details on G-Cloud can be found at <http://gcloud.civilservice.gov.uk/> and full event details will follow.

Systems & Projects

Asset Management

iNetwork has been awarded a small amount of funding by the LGA to look at an asset management network as part of their LGA category management procurement pilots.

This project is currently working with partners in Merseyside on a pilot project before looking at wider NW engagement. The current scope includes; mapping of assets, routes to disposal and sharing and identifying procurement opportunities. The eight projects in total were launched at a formal event in London recently.

Other projects include:

- Birmingham – Textile Recycling
- Northumberland – Collaborative Highways Procurement
- North Tyneside - Social Care eMarketplace
- Newcastle - Strategic Analysis System
- Lincolnshire - Waste Fleet Procurement Project
- Sheffield - Best Practice Contract Management
- Trafford/ Manchester - Identifying savings in Supported Living Schemes for Adults with Learning Disabilities

More details of the launch event can be found [here](#) with presentations [here](#).

The Chest

The regional framework has now been extended and all organisations should have now been informed on new details.

With the demise of NWIEP (and NWCE) a new domain has been created – <http://www.the-chest.org.uk/>. This should now be used as the primary link from other web sites and marketing material. The NWCE and NWIEP links will remain for the next year.

Work is also underway to improved functionality around contract management and monitoring with a specification being provided by the NW group. It is hoped these will be delivered later this year.

Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation

iNetwork is working with YPO on Insurance and Travel procurement solutions. A number of stakeholder events have been held to agree specifications with more to follow.

Low Carbon Procurement

The CLASP funded Supply Chain Network project was developed to address some of the barriers to implementing low carbon procurement and has now published its outputs via the links below.

The project worked closely with two Local Authorities (Manchester City Council and Trafford Borough Council) to pilot a series of workshops identifying practical and targeted action to achieve both cost and resource efficiencies in their procurement decisions.

A ½ day [refresher training workshop](#) was delivered to procurement officers at Trafford Council to encourage progression along the flexible framework; and a supplier engagement workshop was delivered to potential Trafford suppliers on sustainability in public sector procurement.

A three-phased approach was taken at Manchester City Council, through a review of their [sustainability PQQ questions](#), which included the delivery of a supplier engagement workshop to enable suppliers to review and comment on proposed amendments; a series of low carbon contract review meetings with exiting suppliers to identify possible opportunities for carbon efficiencies, including the identification of [sustainability opportunities in taxi procurement](#); and an internal training workshop for the Business Support Unit on [practical implementation of sustainable procurement](#) options.

North West Construction Hub

Work on the Engineering Professional Services framework is reaching its conclusion after huge supplier interest. Awards have been made and details of the suppliers will be made shortly.

Work is also planned around Building Information Modelling (BIM) that will lead to more efficient design and build processes and will enable clients to manage and maintain their facilities more efficiently once completed. This will be a mandatory approach for government funded builds.

An event will be arranged shortly for briefing on the above and more details of NWCH can be found at www.nwconstructionhub.org.

Best of the Rest

NW Procurement Network Meetings

Sub-regional, project and other public sector procurement leads are continuing to meet quarterly with meetings kindly being chaired by Ian Brown, Head of Corporate Procurement at Manchester CC.

The group last met on 25th May and received presentations from Simon Walsh from Central Manchester Uni Hospitals on [NHS Procurement](#) and Ian Brown on an approach to [Contract Management](#).

eAuction Savings

A number of NW authorities were included in a recent eAuction that is hoped to deliver over £2.2m of savings. More details can be found [here](#).

NHS Shared Business Service

The NHS SBS have extended associate membership to local authorities and has just launched a number of new agreements.

These include:

- Beds, mattresses and Pressure Area Care
- Prepared sandwiches
- Quantity Surveying and Architectural Services
- Provision of Internal and External Audit Services and Counter Fraud Services

For further information on all of these contact Susan Weston via susan_weston@nhs.net or tel 0161 212 3719.

Government Procurement Service

GPS have recently launched a new web site and newsletter. The website is at <http://gps.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/> and a copy of the May newsletter can be found [here](#) that includes news on a new further competition tool, low carbon procurement initiatives and updates on latest frameworks.

eMarketPlaces & Personalisation

iNetwork is looking to support a national procurement for a regional solution to a personalisation eMarketplace. A copy of the draft specification can be found [here](#) with more details at the Knowledge Hub group [here](#).

Did You Miss.....?

Did you miss any of our recent events? If so some slides can be found at the links below.

PFI's on Parade

This event supported by Ernst & Young and Cath Wilson looked at the challenges around managing PFI contracts. It also looked at possible areas for gain efficiencies and possible rebates.

Copies of the slides can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

An Introduction to Pre-Paid Cards

This fascinating session looking at the use of Pre-Paid Cards within social care agenda. The event, supported by Mastercard, heard from a number of speakers around the benefits and efficiencies that could be delivered.

Details of the event and slides can be found [here](#).

iNetwork Contacts

Members if the iNetwork team can be contact by any of the methods below. Please let us know if you need any further details on the content of this newsletter or our wider initiatives.

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