

STRONG AND PROSPEROUS PROCUREMENT



ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& EXHIBITION 2007



With an array of guest speakers focusing on the current issues affecting procurement, the forthcoming LCSG conference promises to be a valuable experience, writes **Morven MacNeil**.

In November 2006, the Government published two key documents: the Local Government White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, and an analysis of the local government market, *Developing the Local Government Services Market to Support the Long term Strategy for Local Government*. Following on from the National Procurement Strategy and the Gershon Report, these new publications place further emphasis on the importance of effective procurement in improving the quality and value of local authority services, and increase the demands upon the profession for savings and other efficiencies.

Local government procurement has been transformed in recent years, but there is still a long way to go. At the London Contracts and Supplies Group (LCSG)'s 2007 conference, 'Strong and Prosperous Procurement', on 24 May at the Marriott, Grosvenor Square, leading experts from the public and private sectors will provide challenging and thought-provoking views on the critical procurement topics of the day, and give LCSG members, suppliers and other interested parties the opportunity to explore the issues in a comfortable and informal setting.

The LCSG is one of the oldest and most successful local authority consortia in the UK. In 1976 the Greater London Council (GLC), Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and London Boroughs identified the need for a greater degree of coordination of and joint action in purchasing and supply matters in Greater London. Recognition of the collective expertise and resources of the London Boroughs, GLC and ILEA, and the desirability of

increased participation in the development of policy, led to the creation of the London Joint Supplies Board which in 1991 was renamed the London Contracts and Supplies Group.

Whilst the LCSG runs a portfolio of extremely successful framework agreements for its members, saving the public purse millions of pounds, it is also an extremely successful networking and opinion-forming organisation, representing over 250 members from over 60 different London organisations. In addition, it delivers a range of strategic value-adding projects, discussion papers, seminars and learning and development activities and events, promoting better procurement thinking and practice in London and beyond.

The Annual Conference and Exhibition has been the highlight of the LCSG events diary since its inauguration in 2004, and the 2007 conference aims to build upon the success of previous years.

Speakers this year include John Hayes, Director of Services, South, at the Improvement and Development Agency, who will be giving an overview of the current local government agenda, the role of effective procurement and the future for local government and procurement. David Smith, Commercial Director at the Department for Work and Pensions, will identify the characteristics of best practice procurement organisations and explain how to manage the transition from an operational and transactional purchasing model to strategic procurement. And Richard Denny of the Richard Denny Group will explain to delegates how sellers add value to buyers.



At the end of the conference the winners of the annual LCSG Awards will be announced.

The categories are as follows:

- **Best Efficiency Initiative:** this award recognises the individual or team who through procurement best practice have delivered significant cashable or non-cashable savings and other efficiencies.
- **Best Collaboration/Innovation:** the purpose of this award is to acknowledge those who have achieved success through working together across organisational boundaries, or through creative or original techniques.
- **Contribution to Social Responsibility:** this award is for those who have achieved social objectives through their procurement activities. This may relate to matters such as the environment, equalities and regeneration.
- **Contribution to LCSG:** this award recognises a person who has gone beyond the call of duty in contributing to LCSG's success.

The LCSG event will take place on 24 May 2007 at the Marriott, Grosvenor Square, London.

FURTHER INFORMATION...

For more information, or to register for this event, email: events@bipsolutions.com or visit: www.lcsgconference.co.uk

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

If you would like to comment on this article, please email: bip@govopps.co.uk