

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Resources Committee

29 June 2006

Open for the purposes of
Joint Report of Director of Finance and Resources and the Chief Constable

Procurement

Recommendation:

- (i) **Members of the Committee note the update on procurement activity.**

Introduction / Summary

1. This report outlines the context in which the Devon and Cornwall procurement function operates. It describes the ACPO Procurement Strategy and our commitment to collaborative working. The report also provides an update on the action taken on recommendation 123 of the HMIC Baseline Assessment.

Background Information

2. The ACPO Procurement Strategy was approved in 2000. The aim of the Strategy is to bring a co-ordinated and planned approach to procurement and to encourage collaborative working where it is appropriate to do so. A procurement business case is required to be submitted to the National Quality Assurance Group (QAG) for proposed regional or national contracts. This Business Case determines whether a contract should be local, regional or national. The Chair of this group is currently Caroline Hastings from Devon and Cornwall. If approved, the Lead Force initiates the contracting process and full consultation with other Forces, members of the Criminal Justice Community, Home Office, and Local Authorities takes place.
3. The Centre for Police Efficiency in the Police Service (PEPS) was formed in 2005 and it has taken responsibility for the delivery of the Strategy. It acts as a facilitating and enabling body. The Business Case Process has been updated and collaborative procurements will be delivered using the Lead Force model.
4. The South West Centre of Excellence of Procurement (SWCoE) provides a similar service to Local Authorities as PEPS and co-ordinates and facilitates collaborative procurement initiatives within Local Government in the South West. As with PEPS they do not lead or have contracting capability.

The Devon and Cornwall Procurement Function 2005/2006

5. The Devon and Cornwall Procurement Function has played an active role in National and Regional Procurement activity for fifteen years. Our own procurement strategy embraces collaborative working and we have been lead Force for a number of high profile procurement activities:-
 - At National Level: -
 - The Microsoft Enterprise Agreement – This was a joint initiative with the Home Office and has produced savings of between £13 and £15million for the Criminal Justice Community.
 - Travel and Accommodation – 15 Forces use the contract
 - Computer Hardware and Equipment

Water Coolers – used by The Fire Service and other local authorities.

Driver Improvement Scheme

- At Regional Level
Automatic Number Plate Recognition
Uniform
Photocopying

6. We also collaborate and assist other Forces in contracting opportunities e.g. Regional Forensic Services, Agency Staff, Body Armour, and Forensic physicians.
 - At Local Level
Work is planned and co-ordinated using a matrix and comprises corporate contracts, estates planned work and other departmental and organisational projects. This schedule is circulated to Forces within the Region and the projects incorporated into a regional schedule. Collaborative opportunities are identified at Regional Practitioners meeting.
7. Prior to commencing any procurement activity consideration is given as to whether there is an existing contract that is already in place for example OGC SCAT / GCAT / contracts (Renamed Catalist)

Collaboration

8. We work with a number of partners to deliver a contracting service to the Force.
 - At national level: -
Home Office, PITO and Police Efficiency in Police Service (PEPS), Office of Government and Commerce (OGC)
 - At Regional Level
South West and Wales Police Forces, the South West Centre of Excellence , Devon Procurement Partnership
 - At local level
Business Link, Devon Ambulance, Safety Camera Partnership

The Future

9. There are two key areas of activity for the procurement function for 2006/07
 - The development and consolidation of the E procurement Strategy
 - The development of a Service to the Estates Department

E procurement and Force Integrated Management System (FIMS)

10. The Commercial Services Department has been involved in the implementation of FIMS and the Inventory modules will go live in July 2006.
11. The Force leads on the Regional E procurement project and all Forces in the Region are now reaching implementation stage. We are scheduled to go live with IDEA Marketplace in October 2006. This module will integrate with FIMS and will give the organisation significant opportunities to release capacity and improve contract spend.

12. We also lead on the National E tendering initiative. There are 29 Forces using the Bluelight.gov.uk portal and in excess of 6000 suppliers registered to receive notification of tenders and quotations. All our tenders are advertised on the Bluelight portal and the process is conducted electronically.
13. The Estates PMR and HMIC Baseline Assessment 2005 recommendation 123 highlighted the need to recruit a Senior Procurement Manager to lead on Estates procurement projects. The post is now being filled with an interim, Mr Neil Willmott. He is currently working within the procurement team and is involved in the following: -
 - An Estates Procurement Strategy
Bodmin Police Station new building, Mead House, Training College refurbishment and Estates Consultancy framework.
 - The Resource Allocation Group has agreed that this post is formalised and the necessary processes have commenced.

The Future

14. We will continue to embed the e-procurement initiatives outlined and contribute to Meeting the Challenge through the mobilisation of FIMS. Support to the Estates function will be developed. Relationships with our partners within the Service and Local Authority infrastructure will continue to be important and play an active role in the development of the Procurement service to the Force.

Contact: for further information

Caroline Hastings

Head of Commercial Services

Tel. 01392 452867 Ext. 22867

E-mail Caroline.hastings@Devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk