

Procurement Task and Finish Group

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 1 - Senedd**

Meeting date: **Thursday, 8 December 2011**

Meeting time: **11:00 - 11:54**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Julie James (Chair)
Byron Davies
Eluned Parrott
David Rees
Leanne Wood

Witnesses:

Committee Staff:

Lara Date (Clerk)
Meriel Singleton (Deputy Clerk)
Robin Wilkinson (Researcher)
Gwyn Griffiths (Legal Advisor)

1. Introductions; Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Procurement Task and Finish Group : Consideration of Written Evidence

2.1 The Task and Finish Group considered the written evidence received.

3. Procurement Task and Finish Group : Ways of Working

3.1 The Committee agreed to amend the terms of reference in order to incorporate contracts under the procurement thresholds set by EU Directives. The following amended terms of reference were agreed:

- How effectively are the current procurement Regulations working in Wales, both from a supplier/contractor and purchasing authority perspective?
- How would the proposed changes to the relevant EU Directives impact upon public procurement in Wales, including the following issues:
 - SME (including social enterprise) involvement in public procurement;
 - The use of public procurement to advance other (e.g. social and environmental) policy objectives;
 - The complexity and flexibility of existing procurement rules;
 - Value for money for the purchasing authority?
- How should the EU procurement Directives and the implementing regulations and codes of practice in Wales be modernised to meet the needs of Welsh suppliers/contractors and purchasing authorities? In particular how should regulations and/or guidance be re-framed for contracts falling below the procurement thresholds set by EU Directives?

3.2 The Committee discussed key themes emerging from the inquiry, and agreed to each take the lead on a particular theme during the inquiry.

4. Procurement Task and Finish Group : Timetabling of Meetings

4.1 The Committee agreed the following meeting dates:

- 19 January pm
- 2 February am
- 8 February
- 23 February pm

4.2 The Committee agreed to take evidence from the following witnesses:

- Representatives from Local Government (Carmarthenshire and Rhondda Cynon Taff);
- Members of the Construction industry;
- Members of the Business Sector;
- Representatives from Third Sector
- Professor Kevin Morgan;
- Value Wales;
- Representatives from NHS Procurement;
- Minister for Finance and Leader of the House;
- Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science