

Member Champion – Procurement & Efficiency

Name: Mark Williamson

Key activities involved with since 2009 annual council/appointment

- Steering through, and justifying, the appointment of a dedicated (i.e. full-time), qualified and experienced Procurement Officer funded against savings; securing the decision and working with that officer following appointment.
- Integrating the work of the Procurement Officer with the work of the Procurement & Efficiency Group and planning future work programme.
- Achieving Government targets for cashable savings and exceeding these.
- Reporting to Executive (3 March 2010) on achievements, savings and potential for future savings.
- Developing robust and comprehensive arrangements for shared procurement (mainly through e-portals) with DCC, Teignbridge/South Hams/West Devon, Mid-Devon and e-portals/procurement 'clubs' such as Devon Tenders, Advantage South West and those related to specific services (e.g. Housing). Monitoring the success of these.
- Overseeing, through the monthly meeting of the Procurement & Efficiency Group the co-ordination of information and training within EDDC including use of the Internet and Intranet and the development of support programmes for spending managers.
- Completion of a contracts register which will be the starting point for action to achieve further savings.

Conferences/Workshops - if attended and their benefits

- Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) presentations/workshops at Exeter and Taunton. Very useful in providing information about the development of e-procurement and learning from the experience of other Authorities and partnerships.

Partnership Working:

(This could include working with officer teams, other authorities, outside bodies).

- The monthly meeting of the Procurement & Efficiency Group involves senior officers from Finance, ICT and Housing with officers from other departments attending as required.
- There is a strong partnership with Teignbridge which assisted in the setting up of the Procurement Officer post at EDDC.
- Procurement Officer is developing partnership working with DCC, Teignbridge, Mid-Devon and cross-Authority procurement organisations.
- Procurement Champion is involved with RIEP and brings communications from the Improvement & Development Agency of the LGA to meetings and for dissemination as necessary.

Future plans – what are your aims/work programme for the year to come:

- A savings target of £75000 has been set by the Procurement & Efficiency Group and it is very likely on the evidence of 2008-9 and 2009-10 that this will be exceeded.
- A key area of work is fuel efficiency and savings will be reported as achieved.
- Both the internet and Intranet will be developed as key vehicles for dissemination both within the Council and to contractors.
- Collaborative working will be developed and strengthened and this will include exploration of opportunities in respect of South Somerset.
- The Group will continue to be proactive, using the Contracts Register as a starting point, in seeking greater efficiency through 'smarter' practices and competitive quotations resulting in quantifiable cashable savings.
- No purchasing area is considered immune from scrutiny.