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Welcome!

In an effort to ensure that we're keeping everyone up to date with the implementation of the Central Government Centre of Procurement Expertise, we are pleased to announce the bi-weekly publication of the CGCoPE newsletter. The newsletter will provide information on the transition process, answer questions from stakeholders, and inform of new developments and upcoming events so that we move forward in a collaborative style. A key part of the stakeholder engagement process will be the launch of the CGCoPE website, planned for late June.

This first newsletter aims to bring everyone up to date with progress so far. We look forward to hearing from you with suggestions for topics to be addressed in future issues, or any queries you may have regarding CGCoPE. You can e-mail us at cgcope@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, or telephone 0131-244-7166.

What is CGCoPE?

The recent 'McClelland Report' into procurement in the Scottish Public Sector has provided impetus and momentum to the reform of procurement. A key element of the Report includes the creation of national and sectoral procurement Centres of Expertise (COEs), including one for Central Government (core SE, Agencies & NDPBs). Please see the [LINKS FOR YOU](#) area on the left to go to the full McClelland Report.

The fundamental aims of the Central Government Centre of Procurement Expertise (CGCoPE) are to improve efficiency and value for money in procurement across Central Government by leading collaborative procurement activity for the Central Government Sector; facilitating the work of the National Procurement Centre of Expertise; and contributing to and implementing other areas of procurement development (including policy, best practice and eProcurementScotland). McClelland also expects CGCoPE to have a role in directing organisation-specific procurement activity.

Benefits of CGCoPE

Work has now commenced to prepare a Business Case for CGCoPE. High level benefits already identified include:

- Improved VFM by sustainable approach to procurement improvement
- Increased emphasis on maximising value (both quality and cost) from collaborative buying
- Enhanced opportunities for career progression & development
- Better management information
- Improved contract management/supplier relationship management
- Increased knowledge sharing
- Better procurement processes
- Improved compliance with procurement policy/legislation
- Support to Agencies/NDPBs in implementing ePS
- More competitive supplier base
- Improved communications between central government organisations in relation to procurement matters

CGCoPE also means that you will have access to a fabulous new website which is to be launched in June of this year. The website will have tonnes of information for everyone involved with government purchasing. We look forward to bringing you more information on the website in future issues.

Progress So Far

A formal consultation paper was issued, via agencies and NDPBs, during November 2006 and then re-issued on 25 January 2007 as some organisations did not receive the original paper in November.

The Scottish Executive Management Group Efficient Government Sub-Group chaired by the Permanent Secretary approved the strategic direction of CGCoPE as outlined in the consultation paper.

A response to issues raised in relation to the consultation paper was circulated to Agencies & NDPBs in April. Additional copies of the consultation paper, submissions and SPD response can be obtained from the CGCoPE team.

To assist implementation and lead communications, a CGCoPE Transition Team was set up in January. An event was held at the Thistle Hotel in Edinburgh in February to "introduce" CGCoPE to key procurement stakeholders from Agencies & NDPBs.

This was followed by a 2-day workshop held at Crieff Hydro in March which was attended by 16 "volunteers". The primary purpose of the event was to develop a number of workstreams identified as critical to the successful operation of CGCoPE. If you would like to see the outputs from the workshop, which will be invaluable in developing the Operating Model for the new body, please let us know at cgcope@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

The following high level workstreams have already been identified:

- Accountability & Governance
- Collaborative Contracts
- Communications
- Systems and Measurement
- Benefits Realisation & Tracking
- People & Skills
- Policy & Best Practice
- Supplier & Contract Management
- Category C Procurement

In addition, the following topics were allocated at Crieff:

User Intelligence Groups: James Landels, SPD and Phil Martin, Scottish Enterprise.

Supplier Levy: David Wares, Scottish Prison Service and Gordon Neill, SPD.

Website: Audrey McColl, Scottish Legal Aid Board, Janet McGrouther, Scottish Natural Heritage and Robert Pullar SPD.

Time Release Savings: Sue Barber, General Register Office and Simon McLean, Historic Scotland.

These individuals' contributions are greatly appreciated and will be invaluable in ensuring Agencies & NDPBs have a say in how CGCoPE will run.

If you wish to contribute to the development of any of the workstreams identified above then please get in touch.

Key Future Milestones

A Project Initiation Document (PID) and high level implementation plan are currently being developed and will be circulated in draft within the next couple of weeks. Work will then continue on the development of the Operating Model for CGCoPE.

CGCoPE will be accountable for collaborative procurement activity to a Supervisory Board comprising Chief Executive-level managers from the core SE, Agencies & NDPBs. In early May, a letter was issued to CEs seeking proposals for representation on the Board, together with its draft terms of reference.

A Procurement Delivery Group made up of Heads of Procurement and senior CGCoPE management will also be established in the summer to drive implementation and direct operations in a collaborative manner.

Following a successful awareness session attended by HR and procurement professionals from across the central government family, the first Commodity User Intelligence Group will be established during June to drive collaborative procurement activity for HR contracts.

A CGCoPE cost benefit report and funding options paper (including staffing structure) will be submitted to SE senior management in May.

A ring-fenced collaborative procurement team to lead on Category B procurement and Category A facilitation will also be established in May.

Next Issue

In the next issue we're looking forward to bringing you information on issues such as the Business Case; progress in establishing the National Commodities (Category A) CoE; and the CGCoPE website.

We will also bring you information on what's next for the Transition Team. This means that you'll be invited to a lot more communication events in the future so that you can learn more about CGCoPE and how it's going to work for you. We look forward to seeing you there and benefiting from your experience and expertise!

We hope you enjoyed the first CGCoPE newsletter – we look forward to hearing from you!