Procurement Newsletter

Issue 1 - September 2008

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

www.northlincs.gov.uk

Procurement Alliance North and North East Lincolnshire (PANNEL)

North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils have become among the first in the country to agree to join together to increase their buying power. They have formed Procurement Alliance North and North East Lincolnshire (PANNEL), which came into effect in May 2008.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL www.northlincs.gov.uk

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL www.nelincs.gov.uk

The aim of the alliance arrangement is to:

- Benefit from the economies of scale and buying power of combined procurement spend
- Generate greater efficiencies and better value for money through working together
- Achieve strict Government efficiency targets
- Pool procurement knowledge, expertise and skills.

Further information on PANNEL will follow in the next issue

Selling to the Council Event

North Lincolnshire Council holds quarterly selling to the council events – these events are designed to assist companies to tender for council and wider public sector contracts.

In the future these events will also include demonstrations of the Supplier Contract Management System (information on the supplier contract management system can be found on page 2 of this newsletter) and a discussions on how the council plans to work with suppliers to develop electronic processes.

If you are interested in attending one of these events please visit the council website at www.northlincs.gov.uk/procurement and complete the e-form available.

Supply2.gov

North Lincolnshire Council has achieved interoperability partner status with Supply2.gov.uk. Interoperating with other Government portals will assist Supply2.gov.uk in its objective to be the first portal of call for lower-value contract opportunities.

Further details are available at www.supply2.gov.uk

Procurement Website Pages

The procurement web pages can be accessed via www.northlincs.gov.uk/procurement. A variety of information is available to assist suppliers in trading with North Lincolnshire Council including;

- Annual Procurement Plan 2008-2009
- Award notices
- Current Tenders
- Equality and diversity in procurement
- List of prime contractors
- National and Regional Websites
- Prior Information Notices
- Procurement Strategy 2007/09
- SCMS - Supplier Contract Management System
- SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises)
- Suppliers' guide
- Supply2.gov.uk
- Terms and conditions of purchase
- Trading electronically with North Lincolnshire Council

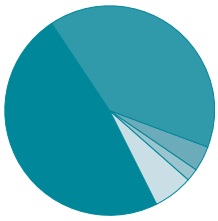
Supplier Satisfaction Survey

Last year North Lincolnshire Council's Procurement Unit issued a questionnaire to firms that had tendered for contracts within the 2006-7 financial year. We would like to thank all companies who participated in the survey. The results are available via www.northlincs.gov.uk/procurement The findings of the questionnaire were fed back the contract managers and actions have been taken to improve the tendering processes.

Did you know....

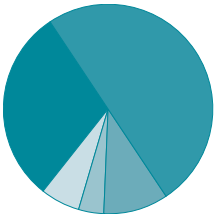
- That you are entitled to a request a debrief after tendering for a North Lincolnshire Council project.
- That North Lincolnshire Council are signed up to a nationally recognised SME concordat to encourage a mixed range of suppliers to help develop and stimulate a varied and competitive marketplace.

General working relationships with the council



- Very satisfied - 48%
- Fairly satisfied -40%
- Fairly dissatisfied - 4%
- Very dissatisfied - 2%
- Don't know - 0%
- No response - 6%

Ease of tendering for council projects



- Very satisfied - 30%
- Fairly satisfied -50%
- Fairly dissatisfied - 10%
- Very dissatisfied - 4%
- Don't know - 0%
- No response - 6%

What is SCMS?

SCMS stands for Supplier Contract Management System and is currently being rolled out across 22 Local Authorities across the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

It is a web-based system that provides a single core database to hold information about each councils contracts and suppliers. This will enable council's to identify and manage collaborative procurement activities.

North Lincolnshire Council are currently advertising most procurement exercises over the value of £50,000 on the supplier contract Management system. SCMS has been rolled out to 7 of the 10 council service areas and a total of 24 projects have been procured through the site to date.

The system can be accessed via http://scms.alito.co.uk/

The Benefits to suppliers are

- Free to use
- Secure site
- 24 hour access, seven days a week
- Simple self registration
- Electronic data transfer - easy access
- Electronic work flow
- Online receipt information
- Ability to find out about current and future tenders
- Ability to find about contracts awarded
- Apply for approved list status for one or more councils
- Support available from a dedicated helpdesk

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Are you interested in bidding for council contracts?

North and North East Lincolnshire Council have a joint selling to the council guide which is available from our website **www.northlincs.gov.uk/procurement**

You may also benefit from visiting any of the following websites;

- **scms.alito.co.uk** Supplier Contract Management System (SCMS) – a procurement site for 22 councils in the Yorkshire & Humber region.
- **ted.europa.eu** Tenders Electronic Daily (TED) - site for public sector contract opportunities.
- **www.rcoe.gov.uk** national site for the Regional Centre of Excellence.
- **www.supply2.gov.uk** Supply2 which advertises lower value contract opportunities (typically worth under £100,000) offered by the public sector

Procurement Newsletter

We hope that this newsletter has been of use to your company and that you have found the content beneficial.

Future additions of this newsletter shall be available electronically via the councils website. An update will be included in upcoming issues of newsline