

Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore, Executive Director Resources and Community Safety

Report to:	Schools' Forum
Date:	27 April 2011
Subject:	Procurement Services for Schools

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consider how Procurement Lincolnshire can support schools in all aspects of procurement.

Recommendation(s):

The Committee should:

Consider the the opportunity to establish a sub group to the Schools' Forum for the purposes outlined in the report.

Background

Achieving good value for money is important at any time, but in the current economic climate it is vital that schools are able to effectively manage their expenditure and get the best possible deal that meets their needs.

The Schools White Paper, "The Importance of Teaching", published in November 2010 stated that school should make savings on procurement and back office spend in order to invest resources in teaching and learning.

Procurement Lincolnshire is a **not-for-profit** shared service between all 8 local authorities in the county and has been established for over 3 years. They have a proven track record of delivering savings and efficiencies for all partners. Since 2009 Procurement Lincolnshire has helped to realise savings in excess of £7m.

Procurement Lincolnshire has extensive experience and expertise in procuring a wide range of goods and services, strategic sourcing and contract management. The staff group have worked for many years in procurement and commissioning in the public and private sector and have a commercial expertise underpinned through a range of professional qualifications.

Procurement Lincolnshire can support schools in many ways including:

- A point of contact in the Council for help with procurement issues;

- Access (where applicable) to the Council’s contracts, for supply of goods, services and works;
- The provision and support for Procurement Cards;
- The promotion of collaborative procurement arrangements with other public sector organisations to ensure schools have access to efficient contracts;
- Can advise and provide guidance to schools in their development of procurement approaches/practices and achieve value for money;
- Advice to schools on the implementation of modern procurement practices, systems and processes to ensure that schools can embrace new technology and achieve good value for money;
- Arrange procurement training;
- Maturity evaluation (audit) of existing procurement practice.

Conclusion

To further develop the opportunities outlined above Procurement Lincolnshire would like to work with representative’s from schools to consider how a schools procurement service can be taken forward. It is recommended that a small sub group is established to review and explore the opportunities and to report back to the schools forum with their findings.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Procurement Services for Schools

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Alina Hackney, who can be contacted on 01522 5553919 or alina.hackney@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

