

# Procurement Board

## Communiqué

At Procurement Board on the 22 April 2015, key discussion items were the revision of the Wales Procurement Policy Statement, a business case for a successor to the Home Grown Talent Project and update on the National Procurement Service progress.

- The Board were provided with a copy of the revised Wales Procurement Policy Statement (WPPS) and heard that this was an updated version of the original statement that was published in 2012 which set out the 9 principals that the Minister expected of public procurement. Designation powers will be confirmed by UK Government over the summer which will give Welsh Ministers power to regulate on procurement. The Minister will be making an Oral Statement on public procurement in Plenary on 16 June.
- The revised WPPS had been updated to reflect new legislation, including the revised Public Contracts Regulations and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. In addition, a 10th principle around policy implementation and measurement has been included. The draft had been discussed internally and shared with a number of senior stakeholders across the public sector. The Board agreed to put forward advice to the Minister, in terms of how their sectors could deliver against the principles, in terms of implications and timescales. Board members were asked to prepare a sectoral response from each of their sectors.
- The Home Grown Talent (HGT) paper was reviewed and since the Executive Summary had been brought to the February Board, a number of meetings had been held with WEFO and there was now greater clarity on the requirements for developing the business case. WEFO had now agreed that development of a new business case could proceed and address within three sections; Strategic, Delivery, Outcomes – importantly, it was now understood that any training should link to a recognised qualification. Since the last Board there had been more engagement with the sectors and there was more planned for early June. The draft business case will be submitted to WEFO in July and they have indicated that project approval could take around 3-4 months. With the current project coming to an end in June, this would leave a gap of 5-6 months.
- With the HGT project ending, Value Wales is reviewing how Welsh Government can support Procurement Week in the future. The Board agreed that Procurement Week, Procurex and the Welsh National Procurement Awards had all served to shine a very positive spotlight on procurement in Wales.
- The Board was advised that Procurex will be held in October 2016.
- The National Procurement Service (NPS) has now made cashable savings of £5.5m to January 2015 and was on target to deliver its savings for the financial year. The NPS is recruiting for two vacancies, for Head of Construction and Head of Food. The Minister had signed off the Business Plan which will be issued in June.
- Discussion was still taking place regarding the replacement for the Local Government sector representative.

**Next meeting:** 24th June 2015: 10.30 – 12.30pm