

Procurement Board

Communiqué

At Procurement Board on the 24 June 2015, key discussion items were the sector responses to the revised Wales Procurement Policy Statement, a business case for a successor to the Home Grown Talent Project and update on the eps programme.

- The Minister had launched the revised Wales Procurement Policy Statement (WPPS), a week ahead of schedule on 9 June. We were still awaiting responses from two sectors but from the responses received, sectors were in support of the principals and had outlined thoughts against each one. Board members echoed their initial feedback, about the consequences that the measures would place on smaller organisations and the demands on their time. When sector reps had met with the Minister they set out their concerns, how their sector looked in terms of delivery and which areas of policy would be a priority for them. The intention is not to regulate across the whole of the WPPS but to add strength to areas that require it.
- The Board was presented with the new look dashboard that will measure adoption against the principles of the WPPS. Information not previously available will be incorporated to provide context to future reporting. The final version of the dashboard will be presented to the Board for sign off in September.
- In terms of eTrading Wales, meetings had now been initiated with all Local Authorities and a number of new organisations have indicated that they would like to engage. A significant area with the programme is the launch of Contracts Directory which will be available for all existing orgs at the end of this month and for all new organisations next month. Future contracting arrangements with Bravo Solutions are being finalised and will be communicated through Value Wales shortly.
- The Board were presented with a paper that summarised the Procurement Fitness Checks (PFC) reviews for the HE sector. Value Wales would be attending the Directors of Finance meeting on Friday where it was hoped agreement would be given to publish the reports. The contract had been completed with the two initial providers and there was a plan to engage with practitioners prior to the next round of Fitness checks. Value Wales will be working with the FE sector to deliver college specific checks. The maturity model had gone through eps Delivery Board and would be incorporated into the next round of Fitness Checks. The new round of checks would be managed as another project and would have their own Terms of Reference.
- The draft business case for a successor project to Home Grown Talent had now been issued to the Board for comment. The HGT project ended on 30 June and discussion with WEFO was ongoing about the development of skills and capability within Wales. Comments provided at the April Board had been taken into consideration and four main themes would be developed, from seven initial options: Competent professionals; Up-skilling staff in devolved areas; E-Trading to SMES and an Exchange scheme and internships.
- The NPS would be recruiting for three vacancies – Head of Food, Head of People Services & Communications and Head of Fleet and Transport, which will be advertised soon.
- Nick Sullivan highlighted to the Board that there has not been a practitioner forum for policy development in place for a while and suggested that, with the revised WPPS and Designated Powers, this would be a good time to initiate such a group. Anyone interested in being part of the forum to email Nick.Sullivan@wales.gsi.gov.uk
- Board welcomed a new FE Sector representative David Evans, Finance Director of Pembrokeshire College and thanks were noted to the outgoing representative Mark Jones.

Procurement Board Chair: **Will Godfrey** will.godfrey@newport.gov.uk

- Congratulations were also noted to Umar Hussain, who was recognised in the Queens Birthday Honours and awarded a MBE.

Next meeting: 16th September 2015: 2pm – 4pm