

# Procurement Board

## Communiqué

At Procurement Board on the 16 September 2015, key discussion items were the eTrading Wales programme, Designation and Community Benefits.

- The Designation Order came into force on 13 August allowing Ministers to regulate on Procurement matters. The Minister for Finance and Government Business had made it clear that Community Benefits would be the priority for designation and work was underway to look at the broader opportunities that it provided. Discussion was taking place with the lawyers to look at the legal implications.
- New criteria had been added to Sell2Wales to provide visibility about how many contracts would now incorporate Community Benefits. Since July 2013 when the new functionality launched there had been 79 projects out of 800 advertised that had incorporated Community Benefits. The new criteria meant that projects would now have to state if they would deliver Community Benefits as part of the contract. Since the new functionality has been added to Sell2Wales, 19 new contracts with £95m had been identified and there was now a piece of work to breakdown the type of contract.
- Sarah Jones, Head of ePS presented slides on the eTrading Wales change programme. The Board heard that Local Authorities were slightly ahead of others in terms of the change programme. Cardiff Met were the first to sign the MOU to participate in the programme with Neath Port Talbot Council a close second.
- The NPS were currently exceeding their savings target which was set for 3%. 17 contracts were currently live and 11 of these had been live since April. There would be a further 30 contracts available by March 2016, totalling 47. Recruitment of ICT and Food Heads of Category were well progressed and appointments would be announced in due course.
- Steven Morgan, Chair of the NPS Board had commissioned a piece of work to look at the governance arrangements of the NPS. Work had also been commissioned on the levy model.
- The Board heard that the Auditor General has commissioned a piece of work to look at the landscape of procurement space in Wales. It would look at how public sector bodies were in terms of fitness checks and if they were well placed to deal with the Procurement reforms. Procurement Board would be used a reference point and emerging findings from the review would be shared with the Board.

**Next meeting:** 18th November 2015: 2pm – 4pm