



CABINET – 29TH APRIL 2015

SUBJECT: NATIONAL PROCUREMENT SERVICE (NPS) FOR WALES PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The attached report, which advised Members of the progress made with the National Procurement Service for Wales, was considered by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th April 2015. The report sought the views of Members on the Authority's future working arrangements with the NPS, prior to its presentation to Cabinet.
- 1.2 Members were reminded of Cabinet's decision in 2012 to join the National Procurement Service for Wales in a number of key commodity areas (outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report). At the time it was decided to 'opt out'/continue with the Authority's own Procurement Strategy in the remaining areas (outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report), which has resulted in a greater level of flexibility in the Authority's procurement processes. Officers explained that as the NPS function continues to develop and key contracts and frameworks are delivered, it may be beneficial for the Authority to 'opt in' to arrangements in which they originally decided not to participate, including Legal Services, which is currently being tendered by the NPS.
- 1.3 The report also proposed that Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Head of Procurement, to opt into such arrangements when able to demonstrate value for money for the Authority. All decisions would be supported by an internal business case and agreed with the appropriate Head of Service. The same flexibility will be required in relation to opt outs.
- 1.4 Discussion of the report ensued and Members sought reassurances in regards to the proposal to 'opt in' to the Legal Services Category Area. Officers confirmed that this arrangement should provide value for money and benefit the Authority as it is being tendered on behalf of the Welsh Public Sector, and assured Members that all eventualities had been examined prior to preparing this proposal. Officers also responded to general queries relating to the delegated authority proposal and the comparative value of the NPS to the outgoing Welsh Purchasing Consortium.
- 1.5 Following consideration of the report, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, by a show of hands and the majority present (and in noting there were 2 abstentions,) recommended to Cabinet that for the reasons contained therein:-
 - (i) That the Authority remains opted out of the commodity areas outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the report until such time that Officers can demonstrate best value to opting in;
 - (ii) That the Authority takes forward the opportunity to opt in to the Legal Services framework currently being developed by the NPS;
 - (iii) That the decision to opt in and or out of commodity areas in the future be delegated to the relevant member of CMT for the service area and Head of Procurement in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services.

1.6 Members are asked to consider the recommendations.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Report to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th April 2015 – Agenda Item 8