

PROGRESS AGAINST WORKSTREAMS

Priorities :-	Progress:-
<p>WORK STREAM 1</p> <p>Establishing/participating in regional e-Marketplaces; (An e-Marketplace is a web site at which multiple suppliers and multiple buyers can undertake business transactions via the Internet).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation to implement Agresso 5.5 with consideration to development of an e-marketplace. • E-marketplace demos -officers continue to track opportunities this relative new way of working might bring. • E-procurement includes successful roll out of e-tendering, increasing the use of purchasing cards and participating in e-auctions.
<p>WORK STREAM 2</p> <p>Improving relationships with the third sector i.e. Voluntary Sector, Charitable Organisations, and Community Organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Funding Code of Practice . • Review of funding support to help build capacity . • Development of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and Action Plans to improve service delivery.
<p>WORK STREAM 2 & 3</p> <p>Developing the Small Business friendly Concordat and working with local businesses. (The Concordat is a commitment from the Council to encourage and develop appropriate levels of competition in local government markets in order to increase value for money and foster innovation, particularly from those businesses who may find it difficult to break into the market. These may include small and medium sized enterprises (SME's) and social enterprises).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Aston University to plot Council's geographical expenditure. • Work undertaken to develop data with SME's i.e amount of Business with SME's, contracts awarded out of the Region. • Development of information for SME's on the Councils Web site. • Developing links with other agencies e.g. Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Advantage West Midlands to support local economy. • Reviewing trading arrangements to support local business. • Developing lines of communication with the business community. • Reviewing internal working arrangements between contract and

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	<p>regeneration officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing specialist training to assist contract officers to support local business. • Raising awareness of business opportunities through supply chains (Award of Contract notices)
<p>WORK STREAM 4</p> <p>Consideration to strategic partnerships to underpin the delivery of shared services (frontline, corporate services, front office);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Improvement Group looking at 'trigger' information, to identify opportunities for efficiencies. • 'Make or Buy' decision making has been reviewed. A process has been developed which uses simple methodology to be applied to individual services and possible ways in which the Council could introduce systematic processes to realise service efficiencies.
<p>WORK STREAM 4 & 5</p> <p>Supporting sustainable procurement, including the new equalities agenda. (Sustainable procurement is a process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services and works in a way that achieves value for money on a whole life basis in terms of generating benefits not only to the procuring organisation, but also to society and the economy whilst minimising damage to the environment).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produced Guidelines on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Procurement - Sustainable Procurement - Whole Life Costing in Procurement - Equalities in Procurement • Sustainability issues covered in model tender documentation. • Sustainability now considered as 'best practice' in the evaluation process of award of contract.
<p>WORK STREAM 5</p> <p>Involvement in national and regional commodity contracts taking into consideration market conditions and spend analysis (market intelligence)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor award of contracts and uses a mix of arrangements to demonstrate value for money. These contracts include national, regional and local contracts. • Developed details of spend analysis and training has been given to key procurement officers in accessing details of expenditure. • Management Reports developed for use in decision making process.
<p>WORK STREAM 5</p> <p>Sharing best practice within</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of information has been developed in the following areas:

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commissioning and procurement of social care and learning the lessons for other councils;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Links with Care Quality Commission advising of poor service provision by service providers in other LA's - Exchanging of inflationary uplift across the region/market - Development of The Market Group/ Contract Officers Group across the Region sharing best practice.
<p>Other work – not specifically covered above.</p> <p>(i) Training to support employees and service users.</p> <p>(ii) A review of procurement structure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training has also been provided to support procurement officers in the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Procurement Directives - Fraud Awareness - Financial Regulations • Structures have been reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement Steering Group has been disbanded. New groups have been formed i.e. Procurement Strategy Group and Procurement Support Group. - Restructure of central procurement support. Purchasing and Payment Services now called Procurement, Contract Management and Creditor Services which reflects accurately type of service carried out and support available.