

## Questions for National Procurement Service (NPS):

- Our former Procurement Manager left his post before last Christmas and before leaving he asked for details to be provided of the savings which NPS stated that Neath Port Talbot Council had realised (£79,285). He also asked for information regarding savings achieved during 14/15 and 15/16 but to date this has not been supplied. Would it be possible to receive this information and also savings achieved updates from NPS on a quarterly basis?
- We have recently experienced several instances where NPS contracts have been delayed. This has an impact on the Authority and has left us, or will soon leave us, without a contract in several areas; especially those where former WPC frameworks were in place; for example the agreement concerning frozen foods. Could we be given notice of slippage with sufficient time to allow us to take measures locally?
- Some of the frameworks which have been delivered have been confusing and your responses to our queries can take a long time to arrive. Is it possible to streamline the process once the framework has been made available such that it becomes more locally adaptable? Currently if we do not wish to directly award we need to carry out a very similar process to that which has already been undertaken by NPS. It would be beneficial to be able to carry out a mini competition based purely on cost – thereby maximising the saving without needing to spend a large amount of time evaluating the quality given that was already assessed by NPS prior to the framework being released.
- Where a local agreement is cheaper than the cost which comes out of a mini competition, shouldn't the Authority be able to procure locally without needing to spend time opting out of the NPS framework?
- When the framework goes live we would expect to see all documentation relating thereto on Sell2Wales in parallel. This has not been the case in some instances, e.g. the ITC framework, provision of electrical, plumbing and associated materials. Could this be reviewed and remedied?
- Within the cleaning materials framework, the 'spend analysis tool' provided to carry out an assessment of the prices was inaccurate and could not be used. This was brought to NPS' attention and we

were advised that it would be resolved. We are still waiting on this could this and would appreciate an update.

- 'Go live' dates are not updated on a regular basis. Could this also be reviewed?