

USE OF CONTRACTORS WORKING PARTY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 13 July 2010 – 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber

Attendees

Councillors

P Purver (Chairman)
V Richichi, and A Saffell

Officers

Vivien Bolland, Procurement and Partnership Manager, Keith Gordon, Senior Scrutiny Officer

1. Apologies for Absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor P Purver declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the employee of a company that undertakes a small amount of irregular contract work for the Council.

3. Minutes

The meeting noted the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2010 as a correct record.

4. Procurement

The Procurement and Partnership Manager responded to questions posed by Members by way of clarification of evidence received by the working party.

In response to Members' questions the Procurement and Partnership Manager confirmed that;

- Work under the housing repairs contract was allocated between the contractor and the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) on a basis of time and that use of the contractor was only to fulfil the demand that the DLO cannot.
- Although contract regulation prevents preference being given to local contractors attention can be given to the management of the environmental impact of the fulfilment of the contract. Distant contractors might deliver the contract through a local office or the use of local workers.
- Provision for variation of the contract is made within the original contract to prevent unforeseen advantage being taken of changes to the contract.
- A balance is necessary between bureaucratic adherence to risk aversion and ensuring value for money for public money. Checks are made on tendering companies consistent with the size and risk of the contract.
- The Council does not have a list of preferred suppliers but does develop

partnerships and does notify known suppliers of forthcoming contracts to ensure that they are aware of opportunities.

During general discussion, Members considered themes conclusions and recommendations arising from the work of the working party. The Senior Scrutiny Officer undertook to prepare a draft report based upon these discussions and circulate to members for approval.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.