

Overview

The Regional Centres of Excellence (RCEs) are tasked with supporting the delivery of efficiencies in local government. Each Centre of Excellence has taken a lead role in providing national support on one or more work stream. The East Midlands Centre of Excellence (EMCE) is managing the national lead for construction and this bulletin provides an overview of the work being undertaken by the EMCE to support the local government construction agenda.

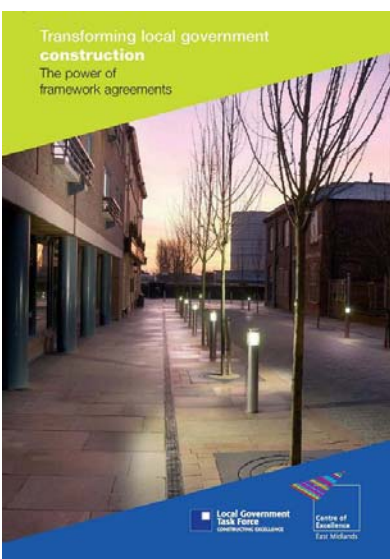
After consultation with the Local Government Task Force (LGTF) and the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), it was agreed that the objective of the national lead activity on construction, should be concerned with identifying and showcasing examples of successful local authority construction frameworks covering housing, general building and highways.

A research project was commissioned in the autumn of 2005 and was delivered by Bob King. The report titled; "Transforming local government construction: The power of framework agreements" was published on 9th of May 2006.

Pictured at the launch are Bob King (Consultant), Chris Allison (Regional Director of the EMCE) and Heather Parker (Programme Manager for the EMCE).



Transforming local government construction - The power of framework agreements



This new publication showcases current examples of successful local authority construction frameworks covering housing, general building and highways. In highlighting key characteristics and the efficiencies they are delivering, it is hoped to encourage and inspire others to adopt similar principles to assist in meeting their construction efficiency targets.

The examples featured have been identified through networks of contacts including the Regional Directors of the Centres of Excellence, and the Local Government Task Force (LGTF) Regional Champions. The examples are at different stages of development and maturity and this is often reflected in their achievements. The project profiles represent a snapshot of a changing picture at a moment in time. Those involving collaboration between authorities show the direction that frameworking is taking in the future.

Spreading the Frameworking Message

The EMCE delivered a conference titled “Collaboration in Construction” which was attended by 127 local authority and Construction partners, the conference was structured so as to inform, educate and improve the adoption of good practice in construction procurement and delivery techniques in local authorities and associated supply chains.

The conference included an e-Voting session, and the results were used to develop an understanding of how the collaboration in construction agenda could support construction efficiency and improve frontline construction related services.

The format of the conference was designed to allow transferability to the remaining English regions, however the content of the conference can be tailored to deliver unique examples of regional good practice alongside the national message.

National Context

A national action plan has been designed to spread the message and influence local authority construction procurement in the future. The action plan includes; a roadshow for each region, policy guidance and clear advice on European Directives, establishing a benefits register, advice and guidance to Elected Members, and research into the impact of frameworking on SME's.

Frameworking is progressive and incremental, each level of accomplishment provides a new base from which to plan new advances, and each advance enlarges the range of benefits. With this in mind the scope of our national construction lead will also encompass Asset Management Planning.

It is estimated that some £14 billion is spent annually on local authority construction projects across the nine English regions. It is anticipated that a minimum 2.5% saving will be achieved nationally through the widespread adoption of frameworking agreements and collaborative partnering, in effect delivering savings totalling more than £350m. Furthermore, savings already delivered through the ten exemplar projects identified in “Transforming local government construction: The power of framework agreements” total £120 million on a spend of £1.7 billion.

Further Information

For further information about the ongoing work of the EMCE as national RCE lead on the construction agenda please visit www.emce.gov.uk/work_streams.htm#ConstructionNat

The report titled; “Transforming local government construction: The power of framework agreements”, the conference feedback report and the event slides are all available as downloads.

“Those actively involved in framework management and development would all say that they have embarked on a journey, but none would claim to have reached the end, or the limits of their capacity to achieve and improve.”

Bob King,
Independent Consultant

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