



PROCUREMENT

Joint Working Initiative – Daventry District and Northampton Borough Councils

Summary

The National Procurement Strategy for Local Government advocates that councils should ‘procure and commission jointly’ and ‘create shared services’ where smaller councils have relatively less capacity to deal with procurement in a corporate way.

Against this backdrop Daventry District Council participated in the Northamptonshire Procurement Forum, which was set up in 2003, to increase the opportunities for collaborative working across the county. Through this forum the council became aware of the benefits available through the sharing of knowledge and collaborative working and committed to securing a procurement professional within the council.

Daventry sought advice from the East Midlands Centre of Excellence (EMCE) on how to support a specific procurement resource within the council and develop joint contracts. Working in partnership with EMCE, Daventry District Council is now part of joint working initiative with Northampton Borough Council, which has been instrumental in procurement knowledge sharing.

Improvement through efficiency



East Midlands

emce.gov.uk

Procurement advisor objectives

- To provide Daventry District Council with the expertise to achieve procurement efficiencies
- Help Daventry to develop joint contracts where there is a common requirement from other councils
- To enable Daventry to learn from the experience and knowledge of other councils
- Assist in the ongoing evolution of the procurement strategies for Daventry DC.

Benefits

- An increased awareness of the importance of procurement and efficiency within the authority, this is gradually embedding itself in the whole culture of the council
- Focused procurement expertise is helping officers when new procurements are undertaken
- The ability to access a wide range of information through contacts with other procurement officers and through access to other consortium groups, such as the Central Buying Consortium
- An annual saving of 20% on mobile phone use within the council following a benchmarking exercise carried out with other procurement consortia groups
- The drafting of new procurement procedure rules for Daventry, using a template from Northampton Procurement Forum
- The new procurement rules will simplify existing processes and bring Daventry in line with neighbouring authorities, thus facilitating future collaborative projects.

Northampton Borough Council now provides a qualified procurement adviser to work with Daventry for two days each week.

Quotes

“Prior to the availability of a procurement specialist it was difficult for us to address procurement issues. The new specialist has raised the awareness of good procurement practice throughout the authority. Procurement guidance has improved and savings are being made both in cash terms and process, that we can translate into other areas.”

Trevor Osborne,
Corporate Manager

“We are pleased to have supported this initiative from Daventry District Council as part of our capacity building remit. It has clearly delivered the desired outcomes, establishing procurement as a valuable area in which Daventry can deliver efficiency gains.”

Andrew Foster,
Assistant Director (Procurement)

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