

NWRA Workshop Feedback
Workshop 2 – Collaboration in Procurement*

Questions asked about collaborative procurement were split into 3 main areas:

- 1) Collaboration- Is it something worth doing?**
Benefits
Drawbacks

- 2) What are the quick wins?**
Equipment
Minor Adaptations
Major adaptations

- 3) What are the constraints?**
Funding
Standing Orders
Legacy Contracts

The group was split into 3 and collaboration was evident from the outset as people worked well together not only discussing the issues but also giving advice as to how some of the problems could be overcome.

At the end of the session the responses were collated and discussion held about some of the points that were raised within the individual groups.

In general, collaborative procurement was received well but with some questions around it. The summary of the points are as follows:

Benefits

Increased spending power
Large scale savings
Long term planning
Faster service provision
Improved service delivery
Increased quality service
Standardisation of equipment improves contractor knowledge
Best practice enforced
Access to list of contractors

Drawbacks

Lack of local contractors to apply at the tendering phase
Concern within client group of a feeling of losing control (perceived)
Administration may be complicated, time consuming and costly
Concerns re: private tenants accessing the framework
Maintaining of collaboration between client groups
Clients being uneasy about sharing of information

Quick Wins

Stairlifts
Level access showers

Grab rails

Constraints

DFG is client based and concerns regarding client choice

Accessing framework by private tenants with DFGs

Pooling funding from various organisations needs to be split evenly

It was felt important to ensure that local contractors were maintained

Responses to some of the issues

Some interesting points came from the workshop to which answers could not be given to all.

Private tenant DFG issue – this was the main area of concern and is a very valid point. We are now currently meeting with a couple of local authorities to discuss the issue and come up with a solution.

Although the amount of funding available is pooled to given a large volume when going out to OJEU the individual monies given to each authority is kept within that authority. This is an important point to emphasise so ensure authorities that their individual monies remain ring-fenced.

Maintaining local contractors is important. It is important that the procurement team supports the smaller contractors through the process so as not to disadvantage them against larger contractors who are used to following the tendering process

(*Notes by Fusion21)