

26.08.05

## To all Chief Executives

30 August 2005

Suzanne Dowse  
CJC Secretary

Dear Chief Executive

### CJC CIRCULAR No 2 of 2005

This circular is to update you and your authority about the work of the CJC. I should be grateful if you could pass it on to officers and members who have special responsibilities for

- ◆ securing Gershon efficiencies, and for
- ◆ the commissioning and procurement of work and services generally

### THE NEW EC DIRECTIVES

The CJC will in October publish Version 3 of its Standing Guide to the Commissioning of Local Authority Work & Services .

This is for the specific purpose of spelling out for practitioners in all disciplines the requirements of the much-revised EU Directives which will come into force next January. All material in the Guide which is affected by the Directives has therefore been rewritten. This has necessarily been done on the basis of the draft Regulations published by OGC, which will of course be subject to amendment, but Version 3 will nevertheless illustrate all the new and in some respects very different requirements of new directives.

Version 3 will as before be on CD-Rom, with the facility for users

- ◆ to opt between three separate texts, for England, Scotland and Wales
- ◆ to check, if they need to, whether the EU directives apply to the procurement which they have in mind, and to opt accordingly between parallel EU and non-EU texts
- ◆ to cross-refer quickly from many passages in the Guide to other related passages, without having to search for them; and back again.

A table of contents for this version of the Standing Guide can be found on the CJC's website at

[www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/CJC.cfm](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/CJC.cfm)

An order form is posted in the CIPFA shop at

<http://secure.cipfa.org.uk/cgi-bin/CIPFA.storefront/EN/product/BV018a>

### CJC ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR 2005

The subject for this year's Conference will be Making Sense of Competition. It will be held on 24 November at the Thistle Hotel, Charing Cross, London. Leading speakers will address:

- ◆ the Gershon agenda and strategy
- ◆ how it will work out on the ground
- ◆ how social enterprises, voluntary bodies and small enterprises will be affected
- ◆ the impact on procurement of the Freedom of Information Act

with a special workshop addressing the practical effect of Gershon on public services and support services

For the full programme and booking form visit the CIPFA shop at

[www.cipfa.org.uk/shop](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/shop)

or email the organiser Trudy Baker at [trudy.baker@cipfa.org](mailto:trudy.baker@cipfa.org)

or phone her on 0207 543 5765

### CJC GUIDE - MAKING SENSE OF COMPETITION

#### a review of contracting out and competition in local government

This will be the subject of the CJC's next Guide. It was prompted by the contradictory evidence of recent major reports, some international, as to whether contracting out secures the lasting improvements widely claimed for it. The CJC Guide will therefore address questions such as

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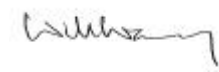
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- ◆ horses for courses - which EU procedures and which types of contract go best with which work and services ? are any of these combinations recipes for disaster ?
- ◆ is big always beautiful in packaging ? is it ever beautiful ? is long term always better than short ?
- ◆ are the most forceful and articulate clients always good for good procurement ?
- ◆ how much of the action and what proportion of the budget need to be kept in house ?
- ◆ is it really wrong to outsource problems ?

We should be very interested to hear the views and suggestions of elected members, senior managers and practitioners in any discipline.

Sincerely



Will Werry, Chair, CJC