

## THE LONDON CPE REPORT ON PROCURING TEMPORARY STAFF

The observations of the CIPFA-CJC

Our main observations are that

- ◆ the scale of procurement from agencies (£0.5b annually just for London) is daunting, and prompts urgent questions about why there are such huge gaps in the labour force of local government in the capital - but, whatever can be done to close these gaps, the procurement task is certain to be challenging for some years, so that the priority given to it by the London CPE appears to be well justified
- ◆ the report makes a good case for a vendor-neutral managed service, the first of the four procurement options described - we think its devolution of appointment decisions to the front line, and the centralisation of record keeping, is the right mix
- ◆ practitioners might perhaps be helped by
  - more details in each case about how savings are calculated (ie exactly what is being subtracted from what)
  - more details of the selection and evaluation criteria used for external service providers
  - any views so far formed as to the pros and cons of the different types of contracts and framework agreements which may be used
- ◆ the report nevertheless generally spells out very comprehensively the risks and technical difficulties of procurement in an intractable field

Will Werry  
Chair, CJC

<http://www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/cjc/index.cfm>