

CIPFA Better Governance Forum and CIPFA Procurement and Commissioning Network

Procurement and Contract Audit Virtual Summit

Webinar

30 September 2021

Purpose

The unprecedented events over the last 16 months in responding to the global pandemic has clearly established the need to strengthen checks and balances when it comes to awarding public sector contracts. Public procurement teams have played a very crucial role in supporting the national response; however, the experience of crisis procurement has also demonstrated the need for contracting authorities to update their policies and procedures, ready for the next crisis.

The webinar will offer practitioners an update and guidance on current issues covering procurement and contract management. Key areas for focus will be understanding what best practice should look like, with key sessions from the National Audit Office and well-known author and procurement expert Peter Smith.

Subscribers to the Better Governance Forum or the Procurement and Commissioning Network can use a pre-paid place to attend.

Learning Outcomes

Delegates will gain:

- Insights on new and forthcoming developments impacting on public bodies
- Examples of best/ poor practice and improvement for the future
- Suggestions for key areas of risk to inform internal audit plans
- Practical tips on the role of public bodies in stimulating the local economy to support post-covid recovery
- How to improve commercial awareness of staff involved in procurement & commissioning

Who Will Benefit?

The update will be of interest to internal auditors and policy managers wishing to better understand the risks in this area. It will also be of interest to those working in procurement and contracting roles.

Programme

09:15 – 09:30

Join the webinar

09:30 – 10:10

Bad Buying – Lessons for the public sector

Peter Smith is the author of *Bad Buying – How organisations waste billions through failures, frauds and f*ups* featuring examples from around the world of waste and mishaps in procurement and contracting. In this session he will highlight some of the root causes of poor practice, in particular those most prevalent in public sector organisations.

Peter Smith has over 35 years' experience in procurement and supply chain as a manager, procurement director, consultant, analyst and writer. Peter is the Managing Director of Procurement Excellence Ltd

10:10 – 10:55

Which types of suppliers do UK councils buy from and why?

This presentation will set out the findings from a recent study of supplier selection in UK local government, focusing on three topical areas:

- The impact of austerity on local government outsourcing
- The impact of political control of the council on supplier selection
- Whether councils are buying more from local and regional suppliers

Dr Peter Eckersley, Senior Research Fellow in Public Policy and Management Nottingham Trent University Editor, Local Government Studies

10:55 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 12:00

Managing the commercial lifecycle and key priorities and themes from the NAO Commercial Hub

The National Audit Office recently launched a new good practice guide *Managing the Commercial Lifecycle*. The guidance sets out the good practice you would expect to find at each stage, from strategy to termination. This session will set out examples from the guidance and other work from the Hub and share how auditors and practitioners can use the resource.

**Mathew Rees, Director National Audit Office
Lilian Ndianefo, Audit Manager National Audit Office**

12.00 – 12.20

A look ahead to procurement changes

The Procurement Green Paper was issued in March 2021 for consultation and a draft Bill is expected to be published in the Autumn of 2021.

Mohamed Hans, Solicitor, CIPFA Procurement Network

12.20 – 12.30

Break

12:30 – 13:00

Update on Optimising Procurement Outcomes Research

This session will provide an update on one of the largest surveys of its type conducted on local government procurement. The survey objective is to gain an understanding of, and take forward, the lessons learned for procurement during the COVID-19 crisis

Dr Richard Simmons, Director, Faculty of Social Sciences University of Stirling

13:00 – 13:20

Getting the basics right

Whilst there is a need for auditors to focus on new projects and contracts or the impact of new legislation, some risks to legal and effective procurement and contracting can arise from processes and procedures that are out of date and no longer fit for purpose. The Procurement and Commissioning Network and the Better Governance Forum have drawn together some top tips for internal auditors to check their organisation's arrangements for hidden risks.

Diana Melville, Advisor, CIPFA Better Governance Forum

13:20 -13.30

Summing up and close of webinar

The facilitators for the webinar will be Mohamed Hans, Procurement and Commissioning Advisor and Diana Melville, Governance Advisor, CIPFA.



CIPFA Sustainability Policy

CIPFA is delivering all of our training courses, workshops and seminars in accordance with our sustainability strategy. We do not provide hardcopy course materials to delegates and these are now distributed by email in advance of the event. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint in every way that we can, and we hope that we can count on your support.