

Foreword

The Commissioning Joint Committee (CJC) is sponsored by CIPFA. Its members cover all the main disciplines involved in commissioning and competition, and also contractors and third sector organisations.

The CJC is an independent forum, and accepts no funding from any source. It meets all its expenses from sales. It has been active for over 25 years and:

- promulgates a comprehensive online *Standing Guide to the Commissioning of Local Authority Work and Services*. This took the place of the CJC's former Code of Practice
- responds to all significant consultation papers, and provides ministers, parliamentary standing committees and others with views and advice ad hoc
- issues guides to major technical problems in commissioning and competition.

This publication is however different – it is not a guide but a report on a one-off CJC study of all the fundamental changes going on in competition and contracting, to try to establish how much of the widely accepted advice on these subjects needs now to be modified.

The study was based on a lengthy questionnaire drawn up by the CJC. It was addressed to decision-makers and practitioners in all disciplines in local government throughout Great Britain, and the Association of Public Sector Excellence carried out the necessary survey for the CJC.

The questionnaire drew more than 1,700 responses. These confirmed the feeling that some conventional wisdom on competition and contracting need to be challenged, and they heavily influenced this report.

Visit the CJC at www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/CJC/index.cfm to see:

- the full list of contents of the Standing Guide
- details of other CJC current publications
- the full text of CJC responses to major consultation documents
- minutes of recent meetings.