

LGTF Efficiency Conference 2006

9 May at the DTI Conference Centre, London

How to deliver the best possible solutions to construction, property, highways and procurement. A not to be missed event for construction, property and FM professionals in local government and the wider public sector.

The event will showcase the excellent work going on around the country and highlight characteristics shared by successful projects. Current examples of successful local authority construction frameworks will be featured covering housing, general building and highways and a report on this will be launched prior to distribution to all authorities. It is by encouraging, inspiring and assisting others to adopt similar principles that local government can fully realise the wide ranging efficiencies that frameworks are capable of delivering.

Chaired by Roger Latham, LGTF Chair and Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council the 12 leading local and central government experts also include:

Peter Fanning, Deputy Chief Executive, OGC on
The Efficiency Review - The Next Steps

Graham Farrant, Chairman, Construction Clients Group on
Private Sector Perspective

Richard Saxon, Consultancy for the Built Environment on *What really adds Value*

Don Ward, Chief Operating Officer, Constructing Excellence on *The Industry Contribution*

Steven Vickers, Manager, Birmingham City Council on *Birmingham's answer*

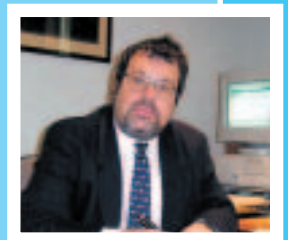
Bob King, Former Manchester City Architect on *Framework Arrangements*

This event is free to attend but bookings must be made in advance. To book and find out more go to www.lgtf.org.uk or:

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Roger Latham
Chair of the Efficiency
Conference



Constructionline: Launch of new IT system

Constructionline is the UK's register of pre-qualified local and national construction and construction-related contractors and consultants. Owned and endorsed by the DTI, Constructionline is a contributor to the Rethinking Construction initiative which gathers and assesses pre-qualification information on behalf of public and private sector procurers providing them with access to over 12,500 fully accredited suppliers free of charge. In addition, it reduces the need for contractors and consultants to fill-in pre-qualification forms for every tender and provides them with access to over 1,500 buyers.

The new IT system from Constructionline was launched on 6th March 2006 following extensive research and input from registered buyers and suppliers to streamline the procurement process. It will introduce a number of new and enhanced functionalities including additional reports and notifications, supplier management tools and increased supplier information. The web based system will mean faster operation with a single point of access and improved search and feedback capability.

For more information on the new IT system and Constructionline please visit www.constructionline.co.uk

Improving your business services

It is Constructing Excellence's mission to improve the performance of all sectors of the built environment. Delivering excellence across the entire industry begins with delivering individual and corporate excellence.

The Business Improvement Services Team has a proven track record of facilitating workshops, designing implementation strategies, improving communications, working across supply chains and frameworks, to unlock both internal and external best practice.

These tailored services are designed to suit the needs of local authorities, clients and their projects are set in a context to ease the implementation by leading teams through a structured programme of activities.

Constructing Excellence's diagnostic tool Explorer Interactive™, provides a business development framework that builds a collaborative approach to developing best practice and cultures within organisations. We would like to offer you the **FREE** opportunity to experience the new online interactive tool recently developed by Constructing Excellence.

You can survey up to 30 participants from a single team, department, organisation, cross section of the business or supply chain; it is totally up to you.

This diagnostic tool will provide you with some valuable insight into your business, teams and partners perceptions. So, please contact the Team to discuss the best way to proceed; there are different benefits depending on which approach you decide to go with.

Constructing Excellence is always looking to develop engagement activities with new and existing local authorities to build on the work carried out with Kirklees Metropolitan Council Building Services and Nottinghamshire County Council Property Services. Case studies reporting their experiences are currently being developed, and will be available shortly.

For more information about the **FREE** Explorer Interactive offer or other Business Improvement Services provided by Constructing Excellence, please contact Mark Lythaby:

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Mark Lythaby



Office of Government Commerce

OGC Guidance Note: Social Issues in Purchasing

The Social Note originated from a recommendation of the Sustainable Procurement Group (SPG) in 2003 following its establishment in November 2001. Its remit was to consider how Government could carry out the procurement of goods and services in a more sustainable manner within the framework that governs public sector purchasing.

The guidance focuses on the different stages of the procurement process and the way social issues can legitimately be incorporated into the purchasing cycle. Key issues include relevance to the contract subject, providing VFM and incorporating whole life costing, while complying with the EU treaty and Public Procurement Directive, including social and environmental criteria in the 'Build-for-All' project.

The main social issues covered are:

- Community benefits
- Core labour standards
- Disability equality
- Employment & training issues
- Fair trade
- Gender and race equality
- The SME sector
- Workforce skills

Go to www.lgtf.org.uk and click on 'publications' to view the Guide.

Information sought by the LGTF:



**Local Government
Task Force**
CONSTRUCTING EXCELLENCE

Case Studies

Work continues to identify and publish case studies of which nine have now been published. These are sent out to members with the LGTF newsletter, such as the case study enclosed with this issue and developed jointly with OGCV on Highways- adopting a flexible approach. Ten further case studies are in hand for publications in the next few months.

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Key Performance Indicators and Demonstration Projects

The annual collection of KPI's is underway with measurement data sought from both active demonstration projects and those that completed the process in the last year.

In addition, the demonstration team have identified 4 key areas in which there is a demand for best practice knowledge:

- Fair payments
- Cross-authority collaboration
- Integrated teams
- Sustainability

The team especially seeks projects demonstrating sustainability covering a cross-section of economic, social and environmental aspects of the topic.

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Build-for-All project

On 16 January 2006, the Build-for-All project, led by Info-Handicap, the Luxembourg National Disability Council, launched the "Build for All Handbook and Toolkit" which aims to advise the public sector how to ensure that all its buildings will be accessible and usable by all EU citizens.

"Build for All" is an initiative which brings together the key stakeholders from the construction industry, European architects, lift manufacturers, municipalities and cities, as well as organisations of disabled and older people.

The public procurement Handbook and Toolkit sets down very clearly why designing for everybody - including disabled people - makes good economic and practical sense for municipalities, local, regional and national authorities, for industry and for society as a whole. Peter Bishop, Director of the LGTF, was part of the production team for this guidance.

The inclusion of Design for All and accessibility principles in the various criteria and conditions for the performance of contracts is encouraged by some of the provisions of the Procurement Directives. Incorporated into the new EU Public Procurement Directive there is allowance for the inclusion of social and environmental criteria mentioning "accessibility criteria for people with disabilities" and "design for all users" as being valid criteria that should, wherever possible, be taken into account when defining technical specifications (Article 23, §1).

The procurement manual can be consulted on the Internet at www.build-for-all.org and is open for comments until 31 May this year. The final version for public sector use will be available from autumn 2006.



BUILD FOR ALL

Promoting accessibility for all to the built environment & public infrastructure

The role of the LGTF within Constructing Excellence

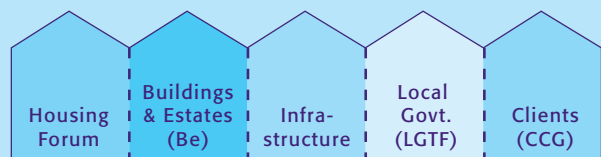
Constructing Excellence is the successor body to Rethinking Construction and the DTI's Construction Best Practice Programme combined into a single organisation.

The remit of Constructing Excellence is to endorse best practice and continue encouraging organisations, both large and small, to implement Rethinking Construction principles through a network of best practice clubs, regional cluster groups and demonstration projects. The group members and activities are shown opposite:

As part of 'Constructing Excellence' the members of the LGTF care passionately about the people for whom they work, their local communities. They want to deliver to them the highest quality buildings, roads and landscapes at the lowest reasonable price using best value principles. The task force will act as a two-way conduit filtering asset management and construction issues upwards to central government



Group membership and activities



and projects, dissemination of best advice and best practice down to local government.

In order to carry this forward the LGTF will retain membership drawn from major Government departments, local authorities and advisory groups while liaising with the LGA and key professional groups within local government.

Membership of the National Forum is free for all local authorities in England who are also entitled to individual membership of their local best practice club and one individual membership of the IT Construction Forum.

For more information contact

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**CONSTRUCTING
EXCELLENCE**
in the built environment

Contact the LGTF

- to let us know your views;
- for information, support and resources on procurement issues;
- to change address details or nominate a colleague to receive this newsletter.

Next LGTF Board meeting: 6 June 2006.

See website for a synopsis of meetings.

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