

Recognising excellence

National Public Procurement Practitioners Day (N3PD) 2008, organised by BiP Solutions, has continued its record of success in bringing together high-profile figures to discuss key issues, and celebrate the achievement of some of the sector's finest in the 2008 *Government Opportunities (GO)* Excellence in Public Procurement Awards.

Attendees heard from speakers including Minister for the Third Sector Phil Hope, who reiterated the vital importance of collaborative working between government and the third sector.

In his keynote speech at the event, which was held in London on 5 June, Mr Hope said: "Commissioning and procurement practices are an absolutely essential part of working well with the third sector. Good commissioning is essential for the third sector."

Also speaking at the event was John Cridland, Deputy Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry.

Mr Cridland thanked local government procurement professionals for their work, stating that "business enormously values the work you do. There would be no public services at all if it wasn't for you, and we recognise the role you have – and the many successes you have had – in delivering high-quality, value-for-money services to the public."

Mr Cridland went on to say that, whilst there have been some successes through reviews such as Gershon and the Efficiency review, it was vital that savings did not come at the expense of quality.

He added: "We do not want to see suppliers squeezed, which simply has the effect of driving firms out of the market, reducing competition and choice. Nor do we want to see a return to the bad old days of compulsory competitive tendering, when price, and not value, was all that mattered."

Those attending N3PD also witnessed the presentation of the 2008 *GO* Excellence in Public Procurement Awards. The *GO* Awards have become the most sought-after recognition of work within UK public procurement, and every year the quality and number of entries increases.

A full review of the *GO* Awards and N3PD will be in the July/August issue of *GO*.

To find out how BiP could deliver a successful conference or event for you, email: events@bipsolutions.com or call: **0845 270 7095**.