



NEWS RELEASE

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CBC AIMS TO 'SHARE THE LOAD' AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A constant drive towards added value is at the heart of all councils' attempts to implement better procurement practices – especially when it comes to making savings.

The spread of shared services and its impact on local authorities' spending and saving is the theme of this year's Central Buying Consortium (CBC) annual conference, entitled 'Shared Services: the Value to Procurement'.

With central and local government striving to meet Gershon's efficiency targets, the issue of shared services has never been more pertinent - it is estimated that the Government could save up to £40 billion over the next decade by sharing services across public sector HR and finance alone.

As the largest local authority purchasing consortium in the UK, the CBC is aware that the savings to be made in procurement as a result of shared services could be substantial. The choice of theme for the conference, taking place in London on 15 March 2007, reflects the importance of a practice which will impact on thousands of procurement professionals across the country.

Ros Aird, CBC Chair, said the event was an important opportunity for those involved in procurement to learn about the benefits and challenges of shared services: "Collaborative working is at the heart of CBC's procurement practice, and we have the expertise and focus to develop shared services even further.

"Our conference is an ideal forum to explore and build on the proven benefits that aggregated procurement brings to the public sector."

The annual CBC conference and exhibition has gone from strength to strength in the decade since its inception. Organised by leading procurement solutions company BiP Solutions Ltd, the event is expected to attract hundreds of procurement professionals from around the country.

Delegates attending this year's conference will have the opportunity to hear presentations from a wide range of speakers, including a keynote address from Andrew Simon Campbell, Director of Local Strategic Partnerships and Performance in the Department for Communities and Local Government. In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to attend a choice of seminars on a selection of relevant topics.

With shared services a rapidly approaching reality for local authorities, the CBC conference represents an important opportunity for procurement professionals to gain an understanding of the challenges ahead.

- For more information on CBC's annual conference, visit http://www.bipsolutions.com/events/cbc_2007/index.htm

