



# Responsible Procurement News



## Progressing responsibly

The progress of the Greater London Authority (GLA) group in delivering long-term value to London is highlighted in its 2010 Responsible Procurement progress report, Unlocking public value.

Since the Mayor's responsible procurement programme was launched in December 2006, work has been ongoing with the GLA's supply chains to deliver social and environmentally beneficial practices, as well as value for money.

Highlights include:

- Provision of least 1,000 engineering apprenticeships every year and, using a supplier-led consortium, supporting a new BTEC Level 3 Diploma qualification
- The GLA, Transport for London (TfL) and the London Fire Brigade (LFB) paid more than 90 per cent of their invoices for all small to medium-sized enterprises within 10 working days
- To cut carbon emissions in line with the Mayor's targets and save money on energy bills LFB has saved an estimated £1.6m since 2004/05, while its overall emissions are down by 20 per cent. During 2009/10 alone, the LFB saved more than £250,000
- To date, 440 of the 4,000 who took part in the Personal Best training course ([www.personalbestprogramme.co.uk](http://www.personalbestprogramme.co.uk)) have graduated,

another 650 are in further training, and 900 have opted for additional volunteering

Deputy Mayor Richard Barnes, who leads the GLA's Responsible Procurement programme, said: 'We are determined to ensure that public money is used efficiently, but even in challenging economic times that it is also spent fairly and with maximum benefit to Londoners. This means using our purchasing clout to buy goods and services that are ethically sourced and have minimum impact on the environment and ensure that we generate skilled jobs, apprenticeships and training.'

A copy of the report can be viewed at [www.london.gov.uk/rp](http://www.london.gov.uk/rp)

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# GLA group signs up for healthier food across the Capital

The Mayor has announced that sustainability requirements will now be included in all GLA group catering contracts.

The commitment, which is the first of its type across such a large UK organisation, demonstrates how procuring food can have large positive impacts. It means that from 2012, GLA group staff and visitors will eat healthier and see more environmentally sustainable food that is produced to higher welfare standards.

The GLA group is one of the largest public sector purchasers and consumers of food in London with about 30,000 employees across hundreds of sites consuming hundreds of thousands of meals each week.

By insisting on higher food standards, London's public sector food purchasing has the collective ability to influence farming, production and catering standards.

Members of the GLA group are the first to sign up to the commitment – all pledging that by 2012, or when catering contracts are next up for renewal, sustainability requirements will be included in all contracts. This



will be achieved without any extra overall costs.

Rosie Boycott, Chair of London Food who advised the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games on the development of its Games food standards, said: 'Sustainable food is good, it's safe, healthy, and profitable. It is also enjoyable and accessible to all, and promotes the best farming and production practices. I believe that it is our responsibility to support this through our contracts to create a healthy and sustainable food future.'

The GLA group Sustainable Procurement Food Commitment can be found at [www.london.gov.uk/rp/food](http://www.london.gov.uk/rp/food)

## Awarded for being responsible

Best practice in action has been recognised in the Mayor's first annual Responsible Procurement awards for the GLA Group and its suppliers.

Held at City Hall in December 2010, Richard Barnes, Deputy Mayor presented 15 awards across six key categories.

Among the winners was Lakehouse, a support services provider specialising in construction and maintenance to the LFB. It won the supplier's award for Outstanding Contribution to Responsible Procurement for demonstrating excellent commitment to the Responsible Procurement strategy.

Mumtaz Bashir (pictured with Deputy Mayor, Richard Barnes) and the Personal Best Team won the staff award for Outstanding Contribution for Responsible Procurement for designing, developing, and leading the delivery of the Personal Best programme in London. They used the opportunity of an interview to be a volunteer at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, to help more than 4,000 disadvantaged and long term

unemployed people across the Capital, achieve their personal best.

A full list of the winners and shortlisted staff and suppliers can be found at [www.london.gov.uk/rp/awards](http://www.london.gov.uk/rp/awards)

The awards event was brought to life by a few words from Nohman Younis, who gained his apprenticeship with Telent on the Underground, through the Responsible Procurement Programme. He said: 'Routes Into Work was an unbelievable experience. It boosted my confidence and gave me the guidance to go into volunteering and a job with Telent.'

Find out more about the [Routes Into Work](#) programme



# Creating job opportunities for Londoners

During National Apprenticeship Week in February (7-11) the GLA Group will be taking the opportunity to highlight the range of opportunities available.

Since 2008 the GLA Group has been working with its suppliers to open up apprenticeship, employment and training opportunities to Londoners. This activity is led by the GLA's Supplier Skills Team (SST) which work with buyers to introduce skills and employment requirements into new contracts, and increase activity with existing key suppliers.



The SST then work with these companies to fulfil these requirements through accessing public sector funding and coordinating the activities of the various public sector skills and employment agencies.

The team has been working closely with the National Apprenticeship Service on a programme of activities with suppliers to take place during National Apprenticeship Week. The activities cover a number of categories of spend where apprenticeship schemes have been introduced, covering both technical and business disciplines. Partners from across the GLA Group, its supply chains and the wider public sector are involved.

The one-week programme will promote and highlight the talent and skills of apprentices, together

with encouraging further take up of apprenticeships. This includes myth-busting the types of profession that apprenticeships are relevant to. There will also be a range of activities targeted at engaging with community groups, apprentices and young people in and around London.

Further information about these activities can be found at <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Awards/Apprenticeship-Week-2011/Activities-Map/London.aspx>

For additional information, or to find out how your business could support apprenticeships, email [supplierskills@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:supplierskills@tfl.gov.uk). Further information on the GLA Group's Supplier Skills Team is available at <http://www.london.gov.uk/rp/skills-employment/>



## MET honoured

The Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS's) procurement team received national honours at a police conference and awards dinner in November.

Fay Davis (pictured) won the Personal Achievement Award for her work in implementing the MPS's four-year Responsible Procurement Strategy, for her contribution to the National Policing Improvement Agency and to other police forces on responsible procurement. She also received the judges' Exceptional Police Procurement Award for her work.

Allan Sneller won the award for the Best Sustainable Procurement Initiative for his work in reusing parts of riot shields, which has reduced waste and led to cost savings. Two other team members, James Brown and Oliver Wilkins, were also shortlisted for the Young Professional Procurement Award.

## Engaging with the community

Find out how two MPS suppliers have supported charity, Marian Mission in Waltham Forest, with a few tradesmen, some tools and 48 chairs with writing tablets! <http://www.london.gov.uk/rp/casestudies/>

## Top tips for LFB contracts

To support businesses who are unfamiliar with their procurement processes, LFB has devised tips for responding to their contracts. <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/Procurement.asp>

The GLA group are participating in a pan European project focussing on the procurement of innovative and sustainable solutions within their construction projects. The 2nd newsletter is now available at <http://www.sci-network.eu/>