



# Responsible Procurement News



## New Resource Centre for SCI-Network

An online Resource Centre has been launched by the Network for Sustainable Construction and Innovation through Procurement (SCI-Network).

The website provides resources for public authorities procuring innovative and sustainable buildings, including:

- A catalogue of environmental assessment tools which can be applied in the renovation of buildings
- Reports on innovative cooling concepts, mechanical ventilation systems and multifunctional façade systems
- A brief study of the income opportunities associated with

retrofitting projects in different EU countries

- A report on European funding and financing instruments for sustainable construction, and the application of innovative financing and contracting methods

Five working groups helped to shape the Resource Centre. Public authorities and experts interested in getting involved are invited to email [sci-network@iclei.org](mailto:sci-network@iclei.org), outlining interests, questions and potential projects to contribute.

The next SCI-Network meeting will take place as part of the 'High Level Event on Public Procurement of Innovation' in Turin, Italy, on 27-28 June 2011. Break-out sessions



on the topics being addressed by the SCI-Network working groups will be held and public authority participants are invited to attend. Email [matthewgalvin@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:matthewgalvin@tfl.gov.uk) to find out more.

► The SCI-Network is a growing European group of public authorities and experts working together to find new, sustainable construction solutions. Any public authority committed to sustainable construction is welcome to take part

June 2011 – issue 8

Inside this issue

- ◆ Marrakesh Taskforce Training
- ◆ Wage boost for lower paid workers
- ◆ Old furniture gets a new lease of life
- ◆ Jobs and training
- ◆ Business opportunities
- ◆ Supporting small businesses

## Marrakesh Taskforce Training on RP Available Through GLA Group

Could your organisation do with improving its knowledge and capability to implement RP? If so, the National Sustainable Public Procurement Training Programme could be the answer.

More than 200 procurement staff across London's boroughs and the GLA Group have recently completed the programme which

was developed through the Marrakesh Taskforce.

The modular programme, which can now be delivered by the GLA group's Central Responsible Procurement Team, provides the essential skills and knowledge in implementing RP at a corporate and contract level.

► For further information contact [timrudin@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:timrudin@tfl.gov.uk)

## Going for Gold

Freight companies operating in the Capital are being invited to apply for the new Gold standard membership of the Freight Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS).

To qualify, companies will have to demonstrate standards that put them at the height of freight operations.

More than 75,000 vehicles are registered with FORS and it is estimated that members reduced their carbon dioxide emissions by 70,000kg last year. More than 54,000 vehicles have progressed to Bronze or Silver membership, with silver members reducing the number



of safety incidents their vehicles were involved in by an average of 13 per cent last year.

► To find out more, go to [tfl.gov.uk/fors](http://tfl.gov.uk/fors)



## Wage boost for lower paid workers

The Mayor of London has announced a new Living Wage of £8.30 per hour.

The latest rise reflects the high level of RPI inflation, which has raised the cost of living and resulted in the need to ensure recipients do not suffer a fall in real living standards.

More than 100 London-based employers have now signed up, including nearly all the major banks and law firms. Across the GLA Group, more than 3,000 contracted employees receive the wage.

Research carried out by Queen Mary, University of London estimates that since its introduction in 2005, the London Living Wage has boosted almost 10,000 workers' pay by a collective £60million.

► To find out more, and to download the 2011 Living Wage report, go to the GLA website – [http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press\\_releases\\_mayoral/record-rise-london-living-wage-puts-£55-million-pockets-capital's-low-p](http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_mayoral/record-rise-london-living-wage-puts-£55-million-pockets-capital's-low-p)

## Old furniture gets a new lease of life

Redundant furniture donated by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to charity Waste to Wonder is helping to equip schools and organisations in the UK and abroad.

The donation has already seen 30 desks go to a church in Swindon, and 40 chairs and tables on their way to Jamaica.

► Find out more about the charity at [www.wastetowonder.com](http://www.wastetowonder.com)

## Jobs and training boost within GLA Group

More than 2,000 people have landed jobs or been taken on as apprentices in the past year as a result of a concerted jobs and skills drive across the GLA Group, new figures show.

Between April 2010 and March 2011 more than 1,100 people joined apprenticeship schemes run by both the GLA Group and its contractors.

With around 2,000 apprenticeship opportunities created since 2009, the Mayor is now well on track to meet his target of creating 3,000 by 2012.

The Mayor has also secured jobs for more than 1,000 unemployed people in the past 12 months by requiring GLA suppliers to deliver job and training opportunities as part of the conditions of winning a contract.

The Mayor's programme, which uses the power of public sector procurement and the dedicated support available for GLA group suppliers of the Supplier Skills Team to directly combat unemployment, is the first of its kind in the country. Early evidence suggests that of the unemployed who have obtained a job through the scheme, around 80 per cent are still in work a year later.



The GLA is currently in discussions with national government and large businesses to encourage a wider adoption of the approach.

The Mayor said: 'While I am very proud of what we have achieved so far, we must push on and demonstrate that creating apprenticeships and jobs for Londoners in this way is good for business and for local people. Following our lead, other major employers can play their part in creating a similar ripple effect that can only benefit London's wider economy.'

► For further information, email the GLA group Supplier Skills Team on [supplierskills@tfl.gov.uk](mailto:supplierskills@tfl.gov.uk)

## LFB checks for Sustainability

A comprehensive checklist for LFB staff has been developed to ensure key sustainability themes are included in future contracts. The checklist has a related ITT template which translates the themes. Key brigade staff have received relevant training. <http://www.london.gov.uk/rp/resources/tools.jsp>

## Opening up business opportunities

From 30 June, all suppliers wanting to bid for Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) contracts valued between £500-£50,000 must register at [www.competefor.com](http://www.competefor.com)

CompeteFor is a free web-based portal that enables businesses to compete for contract opportunities linked to major public and private sector organisations. It matches buyers and suppliers throughout government supply chains, giving businesses free access and transparency to suitable contracts.

Set up to maximise the number and diversity of businesses contributing to the 2012 Games programme, more

than 150,000 businesses across the UK are now registered.

GLA Group usage of CompeteFor continues to grow, with nearly 1,000 business opportunities available on the system.

Fay Davis of the MPS' Procurement Services team said: 'By implementing CompeteFor, we will not only increase efficiency, but we will also be able to ensure that the MPS has access to a wide range of suppliers who have already signed up to a pre-defined set of conditions including health and safety, equal opportunities and environmental policies.'

## Supporting small businesses

In these tough economic times, the GLA Group is supporting businesses by ensuring that all small and medium-sized enterprises are paid within 10 working days of their invoices being received.

The GLA Group average performance in the financial year 2011/12 was nearly 85 per cent of all payments to small and medium enterprises.