

**APSE Wales Seminar: Making the connections 5 years on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2009**

**Croeso Welcome**

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Topic Areas:

- North Wales Trunk road Agency – partnership working between six Councils.
- Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys Councils multi disciplinary Shared Services with the option of entering into a Joint Venture.

**New Trunk Road Agency Areas in Wales 2005**

**Trunk Road Agency Review 2002 Recommendations:**

- Rationalise no. of Agencies from 8 to 3
- Emphasis on transparency, VFM, performance management, increased private sector involvement
- Dedicated unit: 100% to trunk road matters



**Asiantaeth Cefnffyrdd Gogledd Cymru North Wales Trunk Road Agency**



- 1 of 3 Trunk Road Agencies in Wales
  - Partnership of 6 Local Authorities Conwy, Denbigh, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey and Wrexham
  - Gwynedd is the Lead Authority

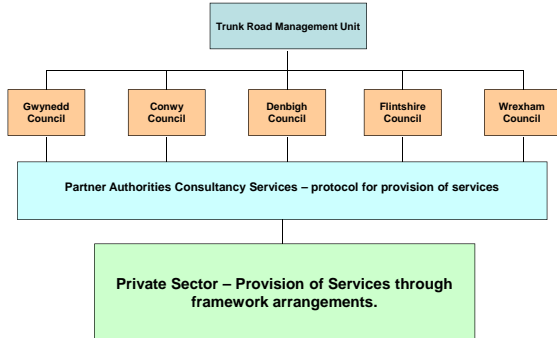


**NWTRA Network Areas**

- 700km of highway (carriageway km)
- 1,150 highway structures (bridges, retaining walls)
- Series of major tunnels (A55)



**Procurement of Services**



**Council's Consultancy Services to NWTRA**

- Design services
- Environmental Services
- Cost management
- Project Management
- A55 Tunnels
- Strategic services

BUT in order to ensure delivery to client a Consultancy framework was needed.

## Framework Basics (1)

- NEC3 Framework Contract
- Commissions based on NEC3 Prof Services Contract Options A,C and E (lump sum, target cost and time based)
- 2 suppliers : Preferred and Reserve Supplier
- 75/25% split in first year (indicative fee level £1m per annum)
- Contract term : 4 + 1 years
- Commencement : 1/11/06

## Framework Basics (2)

- Primarily developed for Trunk Road work
- Partner Authorities can utilise framework (Gwynedd included from outset, other joined later after obtaining Board approvals)
- Administered via Consultancy Board (representative from each PA, consultant, chaired by NWTRA Manager)
- Performance monitoring
- Collaborative working philosophy



## Shared Service with the option of entering into a joint venture

Gwynedd, Powys and Ceredigion County Councils are currently exploring the feasibility of establishing a local authority Shared Service with the option of entering into a joint venture with a private sector partner in relation to Engineering, Building and Property Professional Services.

## Key Challenges Facing Councils

- Individually the Councils are relatively small and face difficulties in the recruitment of professional staff with appropriate levels of expertise.
- Without the assistance of a private sector partner the Councils will struggle to deliver their significant forward workloads.
- The Councils also face pressure in future budgets which predetermine that efficiencies from running costs will need to be found. It is felt that by creating a new organisation with a private sector partner, the efficiencies that the Councils are seeking can be delivered.

## Making the Connections

- The project is consistent with the broad public policy context introduced by the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Making the Connections' and Sir Jeremy Beecham's 'Beyond Boundaries' review of Public Service Delivery in Wales.
- The project has been allocated the maximum award of £200k from the Making the Connections Improvement Fund with match funding from the local authorities.
- The project has demonstrates the Council's commitments to the modernisation agenda. The project is subject to Gateway Reviews, detailed scrutiny, as well as local unions input to maintain a high level of transparency.

## The Objectives of the Councils (1)

- Achieving improved transparent value for money in the provision of engineering, building and property professional services to the Councils by improving efficiency through standardising around the best models of working;
- Maintaining and increasing the number of professional jobs based in the geographical areas of the founding members to help support local economic development;
- Capturing good practices within the private sector partner and embodying these where appropriate within the Councils;

### The Objectives of the Council (2)

- Promoting the use of the Welsh language in the delivery of services;
- Ensuring that the right capability is available to provide a resilient service to all customers;
- Formalising links with local educational establishments (schools, colleges and universities) and professional bodies to help provide training opportunities, apprenticeships and career development within the local areas;

### The Objectives of the Council (3)

- Developing a strong and trusted brand for the joint venture which is valued by customers and citizens across Central and North Wales;
- Improving job satisfaction and career opportunities within the joint venture making it easier to attract, motivate and retain valued staff;
- Establishing a creative, inventive and dynamic partnership between the Councils and the private sector in the interests of each party;
- Satisfying the improvement priorities set out in the Councils' Improvement Plans.