

PR/02/CEO

Dated 6 June 2002

4ps to take wider procurement role following LGA review

The review of central support of procurement by the Local Government Association (LGA) has been completed and has concluded that 4ps should play a greater role in advising local authorities on procurement in general rather than just the narrow PPP/PFI remit as at present. Revised procedures will ensure that 4ps will work more closely with the other LGA central bodies (in particular the IDeA) to provide comprehensive support for councils on procurement matters. This will include those councils requiring support following a comprehensive performance assessment ("CPA").

4ps is now working with the other central organisations of the LGA (IDeA, EO and LACORS) to develop a co-ordinated business plan for offering a complimentary range of services to local authorities. This will form the basis for their bids for grant funding for the financial year 2003/4.

Cllr Richard Kemp, Chair of 4ps, said:

"This announcement ends a period of uncertainty for 4ps and its staff. The LGA review gives an increased role on all forms of "big ticket" procurement for local authorities. Additionally, local government is under increasing pressure to improve in all service areas and 4ps is building its capacity to prepare for the assistance that will be required by authorities following CPAs. I am sure these are the most positive events for the 4ps since it was established six years ago."

Further information is available on the LGA website - www.lga.gov.uk

4ps starts recruitment of new Executive Director

The LGA review also concluded that 4ps should proceed to recruit a new Executive Director and the search has now commenced. The LGA personnel department will be assisting 4ps in the exercise and KPMG have been appointed to undertake a search. It is expected that advertisements will appear in selected publications from 16th June.

Information will be posted on 4ps website – www.4ps.co.uk

4ps recruits five new executives

4ps is pleased to announce that it has recruited five new executives:

- **Alan Burnett** who joins from Norfolk County Council. Alan is extremely well known in the PFI market having previously been at the MoD for five years where he set up and ran the PFI unit to undertake the PFI programme for married quarters. Prior to that Alan held senior posts in local government as well as having worked in the private sector. Alan has an MBA as well as professional qualifications in housing.
- **Brian Standen** joins from the Public Sector Division of Unipart. Brian is also well known in the PFI market having been seconded to the Treasury/Cabinet Office from 1995 to 97 during which time he helped to establish the Central IT Unit – CITU where he was Deputy Director - PFI. Brian is an MBA and Chartered Accountant and has spent the bulk of his career in the private sector involved in public sector contracts.
- **Andrew Hugill** joins on secondment from North Yorkshire County Council. Andrew has extensive experience of transportation projects and has been managing the council's PFI roads programme. Andrew is a Chartered Engineer and worked with a civil engineering company before joining the public sector.
- **James Stuart-Mills** joins from Aquamen Group PLC, the facilities management arm of John Mowlem Group PLC. James is a Chartered Accountant and has worked on several PFI bids with Aquamen and the Group. Prior to that, James was with Pricewaterhouse Coopers in the PFI advisory group in Scotland, advising public sector clients on Schools and accommodation PFI projects.
- **Kate Gurtenne** joins from Railtrack where she has been working as an investment manager on a number of upgrade projects.

Brian joins 4ps in June, Kate in July and Alan, Andrew and James in September.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. 4ps (Public Private Partnerships Programme) is the Local Authority agency set up by the English and Welsh local authority associations (predecessors to the LGA) in 1996 to support local authorities in the development and delivery of private finance initiative (PFI) schemes and other forms of public/private partnerships.
2. IDeA is the Improvement and Development Agency.
3. LACORS is the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services.
4. EO is the Employers' Organisation for Local Government.
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