

East Sussex County Council implementation of the Byatt report recommendations

A case study

The County Council adopted a procurement strategy and Improvement Action Plan (IAP) in November 2001 based on the **triple drivers** of Best Value, the Byatt report and the BV Inspection report on procurement at ESCC.

In the case of the Byatt report, the majority of the recommendations which Las themselves could action directly were already in place or are now subject to the IAP. It is in the implementation of **Recommendation 26** which calls on the DTLR & LGA to "explore how a Gateway project review process could be developed for Las " that ESCC can provide a "leading edge" case study.

The Corporate Procurement Unit at ESCC has developed and implemented with the support of all Chief Officers a **2-Gate version** of the Gateway process, which is currently being applied to major, complex or high risk projects, requires a green light to pass each Gate, but has a unique format if its own.

Gate 1 -Project set up and Initiation checks ,has four sections. All checks are in the form of a question to which an answer will be given in "traffic light" format with space for comment alongside. The four sections are:

- 1a Strategy & vision
- 1b Outsourcing (if applicable)
- 1c Stakeholder commitment
- 1d Project management

Gate 2 Pre-Procurement checks, has three sections in the same format as Gate 1 above:

- 2a Specification of requirement
- 2b Procurement & Contract management skills
- 2c Procurement route

The Gateway "health check" is completed by the Project manager, double checked by the Corporate Procurement Manager as the "Gatekeeper", and a summary of outstanding issues and an overall "traffic light" brought to the attention of the Project Board at completion of each "Gate". All strategically important projects are listed on a spreadsheet with a trigger date for completion of the Gateway *at least* 12 months before any contract award is made.

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