



CONSTRUCTION

## National Construction Project

### Project description

The exercise was directed towards the identification of exemplars of framework processes capable of replication up and down the country.

It was expected that the results would embrace a range of possible options and solutions reflecting differing local circumstances and contexts. The intention was to identify models and alternatives lending themselves to the range of programmes existing in counties, the major cities and also to smaller districts.

Performance measurement was an integral part of the exercise. Reliable and consistent systems of measurement which accurately demonstrate what has been achieved and facilitate wider comparison are what must be sought from the initiatives in use and under development.

### Quote

***“With some £14 billion of capital alone spent by English local authorities on construction, I am convinced that frameworks and the adoption of the principles behind them provide a key opportunity for considerable efficiency gains”.***

Tim Byles,  
Chair of the Chief Executives Task Force

Improvement through efficiency



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[emce.gov.uk](http://emce.gov.uk)

## Process stages

The process was loosely organised into the following stages, though in practice these are unlikely to operate exclusively from each other.

### 1. Research and Data Assembly

Identification of the necessary exemplars relied on successfully tapping into the networks of contacts linking back to the Local Government Task Force (LGTF). As a national exercise, it was important to reach out across the country to engage with those in local government and elsewhere, translating the principles of Rethinking Construction into effect by adopting collaborative working arrangements delivered by means of local framework agreements.

Key primary sources of the crucial linkages were the LGTF Regional Champions from the network of Centres of Excellence and others linked to the LGTF. They represent the link into current innovative practice and evidence of performance.

### 2. Evaluation

In examining different projects in operation, the common factors were drawn out to help inform and assist in providing an overview of the key ingredients. The nature of the working relationships was examined to consider how the important attitudinal adjustments are being managed in the transition from traditional to collaborative working. The initial analysis informed the options for shaping the presentation of the conclusions. In turn these were influenced by new sources of experience and information which arose.

### 3. Draft processes

With the organisation of the material obtained and the analysis of the emerging conclusions the outline report began to organise the emerging findings. These were widely distributed for consultation amongst the contributors. Their feedback in turn informed the final shaping of the outcome. Consideration was given at this stage to the way the report could be most effectively used to achieve the primary objective of accelerating the adoption and use of best practice across the local government sector. The role to be played in this by the Regional Champions and local networks will be debated to maintain their support and involvement in the dissemination stages.

### 4. Final recommendations

The publication 'Transforming Local Government Construction - The Power of Framework Agreements' showcases current examples of successful local authority construction frameworks covering housing, general building and highways. In highlighting key characteristics and the efficiencies they are delivering, it is hoped to encourage and inspire others to adopt similar principles to assist in meeting their construction efficiency targets.

The National Liaison Group for Construction has reflected on the key tasks arising from the publication and considered the key points raised in the EMCE Director's report 'Framework Contracts - Widening the Reach'. These have been encapsulated in the national roll out strategy and development of an action plan for consideration by the LGTF. The Strategy includes a rollout seminar, which was piloted in the East Midlands region on September 18th 2006. To download the publication visit: [www.emce.gov.uk/work\\_streams.htm#ConstructionNat](http://www.emce.gov.uk/work_streams.htm#ConstructionNat)

### 5. Anticipated benefits/savings

It is widely expected that the exemplars will show that good framework agreements and resultant partnerships should produce a minimum of 5% saving on contract works costs. The annual capital construction programme for all local authorities is £14bn, given that this piece of work is targetted at a national audience savings of £700m could be realised over the life of this project.

## Contact

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