

Press Release

27 October 2011

City region authorities cut red tape to boost competitiveness

Leaders of the eleven local authorities in the Leeds City Region have today agreed on a joint procurement framework for major construction projects in response to private sector pleas to cut red tape.

The new approach is going to streamline local authority priorities across the city region, and most importantly, will help reduce business costs and increase the competitiveness of local businesses.

Proposals were put together as a direct response to key concerns raised by the local construction and development industry around different procurement rules across the city region's local authorities. The new initiative from the Leeds City Region Partnership will also help bring substantial financial and operational efficiency benefits to local authorities.

Some of the benefits include:

- savings to local authorities including reduced costs and time of process (max 8 weeks as opposed to 4-9 months)
- creation of jobs and apprenticeships and
- provision of work experience for existing and potential industry entrants on all projects.

Cllr Box, Chair of the Leeds City Region Leaders Board said:

'As a group of eleven authorities, we have responded to calls from businesses to collectively cut red tape and speed up how we do business. These changes will not only reduce costs for our local businesses but will also save taxpayers money. It is a win-win situation.'

Neil McLean, Chair of the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership said:

'This is an excellent example of local authorities collaborating to improve how they operate, for the benefit of local companies. I look forward to continuing to explore



further ways in which the public and private sectors can support jobs and economic growth.'

The YORbuild Framework was put in place in 2009 but adoption by local authorities in the city region has been limited to date. In taking this commitment forward, the Partnership will work closely with procurement officers across the city region to increase awareness of the Framework and embed it within local authority practices.

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Notes to editors:

1. The Leeds City Region (LCR) Partnership brings together a group of 11 local authorities (Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, Selby, Wakefield, York and North Yorkshire County Council) with businesses and partners to support economic growth and a better quality of life for our communities.
2. The Leeds City Region is the largest city region economy and financial centre in the country outside London. With a £52billion economy representing 5% of the overall UK economy, over 100,000 businesses and a 3 million population, the city region will continue to be at the forefront in both driving the economy of the North and accelerating national economic prosperity.
3. The Leeds City Region was one of the very first to form a private sector - led local enterprise partnership (LEP) and commit to working closely with both the private and public sectors in order to help businesses and the economy grow. The body representing the LEP – The LEP Board – is now working alongside the Leaders Board to deliver the Partnership's economic development plan which was launched at the [Leeds City Region LEP Summit](#) in September 2011.
4. For more information on the Leeds City Region Partnership please visit www.leedscityregion.gov.uk.

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