

Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace

NEWSLETTER

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Hertfordshire County Council working in partnership with Dacorum Borough Council, East Herts District Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, St Albans City and District Council, Stevenage Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council, Watford Council, Welwyn Hatfield District Council and Luton Borough Council

Background

Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace is the collaboration of HCC with nine out of ten of the Hertfordshire Districts and Luton Borough Council. in partnership with two suppliers: IDeA:Marketplace for the eMarketplace functionality and building on the experience of the Essex Marketplace, and @UKPLC for their track record of supplier engagement.

The Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace submitted a successful bid to the Centre of Excellence (CoE) East for funding which covers the first year costs to the Hertfordshire Districts of IDeA:Marketplace and @UKPLC costs and the funding for one year of a Project Co-ordinator to help the Districts with the implementation.

Progress So Far

The project kick off was in October 2005 and everyone has been working hard locally to ensure progress. as can be seen in the table below. Also look at ***District and Borough Council Status*** for more detail.

Each authority has identified its pilot department, and suppliers will be adopted in line with this. Supplier adoption letters will be sent out shortly and registration of suppliers will start thereafter. Herts Direct (the HCC website) and the other member authority websites are being updated with information about the Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace. See more detail under ***Supplier Adoption*** below.

Some pilot go live dates are still showing tbc in the table below because in any such project integration with existing systems is an important consideration and there are issues to be worked through. All participating authorities are committed to the project and more pilot go live dates are expected to be agreed in the near future.

Hertfordshire and Luton marketplace implementation								
Authority	Implementation type	FMS provider (software)	Pilot go live	Workshops				Supplier Adoption Meetings
				Project kick-off	System Admin training	Department /Testing	Buyer training	
Dacorum Borough Council	Punch-In	Agresso (Business World)	April '06	√	20-Feb			26/1
East Hertfordshire District Council	P2P	Civica/Radius (Powersolve)	tbc	√	31-Jan			14/12
Hertsmere Borough Council	Punch-In	Civica/Radius (Powersolve)	April '06	√	20-Feb			
Luton Borough Council	Punch-In	Civica/Radius (Powersolve)	tbc	√	tbc			
North Hertfordshire District Council	P2P	iB Solutions (Integra)	tbc	√	31-Jan			14/12
St. Albans City Council	Punch-In	iB Solutions (Integra)	tbc	√	√	7/3		13/12
Stevenage Borough Council	P2P	iB Solutions (Integra)	tbc	√	√			5/1
Three Rivers District Council	P2P	Civica/Radius (Powersolve)	June '06	√	tbc			19/12
Watford Borough Council	Punch-In	B-Plan (Aptos)	March '06	√	√	1/3 tbc		19/12
Welwyn Hatfield District Council	Punch-In	Agresso (Business World)	June '06	√	tbc			5/1

How does the Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace work?

The Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace supports both Punch In and P2P and each authority has chosen either Punch In or P2P on the basis of their local system capabilities.

- Punch In is where the user selects goods/services using a shopping basket, from the Marketplace and then pulls it back into the FMS for authorization, budget coding and turning into an order. This order and any further transactions (acknowledgement/invoices) are then transmitted through the Marketplace to allow the information to be gathered.
- P2P is where most of the ordering and authorisation functionality happens within the Marketplace. The order information is also transmitted through the Marketplace to allow information gathering. Information is then fed back to the authority's FMS system.

Supplier Adoption

The member authorities have been working locally on their pilot supplier lists and have been meeting with @UK to agree this. As the Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace is a collaborative project it has been decided that supplier registration should happen centrally. Therefore one letter is being sent out to suppliers who currently do business with one or more councils on behalf of all the participating authorities. Suppliers are being directed to register via Herts Direct www.hertsdirect.org/eprocurement

The benefits of this method are:

- Suppliers only receive one letter, rather than a number from all the Districts and Boroughs with which they do business.
- The eProcurement page on Herts Direct contains information for suppliers about eProcurement and detail about the Hertfordshire and Luton Marketplace.
- The eProcurement page will have links to Districts and Boroughs (and they in turn will have links back to the eProcurement page on Herts Direct).

Result, less confusion, speaking with one voice.

Latest News

The member authorities are also collaborating when negotiating with the FMS (Financial Management System) providers. The authorities have four different FMS systems between them as can be seen in the table above.

To take this forward a meeting has been arranged with Civica on 16 February, and all four authorities using this system are attending to progress the project and share costs.

There is also a meeting on 24 February with Agresso at Dacorum.

IB-Solutions' authorities are working collaboratively where possible.

District and Borough Council Status

Watford

Plan on giving all users' visibility of CBC and other contracts once pricing has been checked.

Testing within a test environment will commence once patch from BPlan is delivered on 20 February. Supplier adoption letters to local suppliers to be sent via South West Regional Development Agency, on behalf of Watford, Three Rivers and Hertsmere, Herts County Council will manage main mail shot. BPlan will be updated to receive electronic invoices direct from Marketplace.

Stevenage

Training received via IDeA:Marketplace on 31 January. Met with @UKPLC regarding Supplier Adoption. Training on Integra progressing well. Will move to P2P once Integra update is complete.

St Albans

Meeting with IB-Solutions 23, 24 January including latest update. Training received provided by IDeA:Marketplace. Supplier Adoption seminar carried out in January in conjunction with Economic Development and Business Link. Initial training received on Marketplace before Christmas.

Following the meeting on 14 February with IDeA:Marketplace and IB Solutions to discuss the integration of the two systems, IB Solutions will need to modify existing interfaces, two test interfaces have been requested to pilot system until modifications have been completed.

Regarding the UNSPSC coding St Albans have made a decision to go to level three in order for IB Solutions to integrate the Marketplace with Integra.

Three Rivers

Decision to adopt P2P route and share development cost with with East Herts due to common version of Radius. Meeting at Civica's offices on 16th February confirmed finance codes should readily interface between Radius/Powersolve and Marketplace. Will initially use Banner contract with gradual introduction of remaining catalogues/contracts.

Meeting held with @UKPLC on supplier adoption on 19th /Dec.

East Herts

Found the meeting with Three Rivers useful, a different approach/perspective. IT at East Herts are keen on doing dummy testing. Work being undertaken by IT to identify initial set-up requirements and mapping. Dummy testing taking place between 1 February 2006 - 31 March 2006

Discussion with @UKPLC completed - indicated that supplier adoption will take approximately 3 months.

Dacorum

Received system admin training along with Hertsmere. Supplier Adoption meeting with @UKPLC. Strategic meeting about whether housing will be included. Meeting with Agresso to discuss implementation of procurement module arranged for 24 February at Dacorum.

Welwyn Hatfield

Will be one of the last Districts to go live because implementing new FMS from Agresso. Have met with @UKPLC to commence supplier adoption process.

North Herts

Further information requested from IDeA:Marketplace on file format for interface with Integra. Discussion about the best way to proceed with IB Solutions and IDeA:Marketplace. Scheduled to purchase IB Solutions e-procurement module in 12 months. Supplier adoption meeting held on 14/Dec. Main supplier engagements end March/early April.