

The day started with Councillor Stuart Hughes welcoming everyone to the event, he was also supported by the Somerset and Plymouth portfolio holders.

Somerset then did a presentation on desired outcomes and strategic objectives of the procurement, before Matthew Lugg, gave a talk about the role and importance of HMEP (Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme), with a link to the [attached presentation](#).

Somerset then gave a presentation on the procurement process, including explaining about some of the differences brought in earlier on this year by the introduction of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015. This has meant that at the time that we publish the OJEU Notice (OJEU = Official Journal of the European Union) and go out with the PQQ (Pre-Qualification Questionnaires), we need to publish all the contract documents. The Regulations though have introduced a slightly different approach though which we will be utilising in this procurement, which is called Competitive with Negotiation. This permits some discussion/negotiation with the tenders prior to their final submissions.

The morning continued with a presentation from David Whitton, setting some background about the three authorities, geographical size, finance etc. Please see the [presentation here](#).

After a 'question and answer' session the morning event was brought to a close by Plymouth City Council, recapping on the principal points and questions raised.

After the bidders event, in the afternoon the three authorities met with Matthew Lugg to discuss our help and involvement in developing more of the HMEP suite of documents, as well as reflecting on the results of the dry-run that has occurred for the Incentive Fund. The Incentive Fund if you recall from the Team Days is the amount of extra money we can try and achieve annually, by demonstrating that we are working efficiently amongst other items. This session was particularly useful as Matthew had developed the questionnaire and was able to advise on what the purpose of some of the questions was for.

There will be further updates in the Bulletin as the work progresses and particularly in October when the documents are all published.

Meg Booth
Highways Intelligence Group Manager