

# *Procurement in councils*

## **Scotland Excel Joint Committee**

Glasgow, 17 June 2016

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## 2014

- Apr – Audit Scotland: *Procurement in councils* report
- Jun – Audit Scotland: presentation to Scotland Excel (SXL)
- Sep – Scotland Excel: new Director, Julie Welsh

## 2015

- Scotland Excel: new *Procurement Commercial Improvement Programme*
- Jun – Scotland Excel: *Shared Vision Shared Strategy, 2015-18*
- Nov – Audit Scotland: impact assessment to Accts Com on *Procurement in councils*
- Nov – Scotland Excel: requisition increase of 9.4 % agreed for 2016/17

## 2016

- Feb – Accounts Commission: letter to Scotland Excel's Joint Committee

- Caveat – we used PCA assessments up to and including 2014 (no PCAs in 2015)
- Councils
  - Overall – general trend of continuing improvement
  - Some councils need to increase their pace of change
  - Some evidence that a small council is maybe disadvantaged
  - Yet some small councils are performing well
- Some procurement aspects are progressing well
  - Procurement strategy & objectives (77 %)
  - People (76 %)
- Some aspects are progressing more slowly
  - Contract and supplier management (46 %)
  - Key purchasing processes and systems (44 %)

- Vision – *Shared vision, shared success*: corporate strategy 2015-2018
- Credibility – well-respected by stakeholders
- A ‘shared services’ success story, delivering tangible benefits, eg:
  - Developing contracts with a customer focus – eg social care
  - Delivering a learning & development programme for officers & members
  - Facilitating improved value for money/sustainability
  - Supporting continuous improvement – PCA → PCIP
  - Engaging with centres of expertise outside local government

- Scotland Excel
  - Two 'Red' risks (reported to the Scotland Excel Sub-Committee, 13 May 2016)
    - Recruitment & retention of skilled, quality staff
    - Long-term financial sustainability
  - Broadening the client base – Associate members of SXL, eg councils' ALEOs
  - Effective governance – Chief Executive Officers Management Group
- Councils
  - Financial support for SXL – annual agreements vs strategic commitment?
  - Procurement capacity & expertise – recruitment & retention of skilled officers?
  - Collaborative working and shared services?
  - PCIP assessments – every two years, from 2016?
  - Training and support for elected members?

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