

Item 6a

The Transparency Code 2014 – Implementation Update for Procurement Related Requirements

1. £500 Spend Declaration

Enhanced spend data declarations are due to be published at the end of January 2015.

All three Councils are on schedule to achieve this requirement.

As part of the process review the participants agreed that we would harmonise the data capture and data processing conventions associated with the spend data. This means that provision of all information is automated as far as possible and manual quality checks to redact personal information are kept to a minimum, furthermore, once identified, they are excluded from the data going forwards. The AGMA SpendPro team who receive, manipulate and publish the data to the Councils have been fully engaged in the project.

In order to achieve the objectives and to improve efficiency we have had to:

- a) Identify all data streams associated with spend
- b) Identify and agree exclusions / redactions from financial data supplied (e.g. personal data)
- c) Establish secure data storage and data transfer conventions
- d) Identify and agree process for quality assurance (manual redactions)
- e) Review and agree the process flow including timing, sequencing and responsibilities.

The process has been more complex and onerous than first anticipated but will result in harmonised, comparable, comprehensive data that we can use for a range of analysis activities such as reviewing local spend statistics.

2. Government Procurement Card expenditure

Trafford and Rochdale do not use Government Procurement Cards.

Stockport will be publishing the data in line with requirements at the end of January 2015.

3. Procurement Invitations to Tender over £5000

The requirement is to publish quarterly however STaR Councils will be providing a link on the internet to The Chest the online advertising portal so all information can be viewed "live". Trafford and Rochdale's link is now established and Stockport and Rochdale's links will be in place by the end January 2015.

4. Contract and Commissioning Activity over £5000

Stockport and Trafford have published a contract register with enhanced transparency information regarding contractual data and spend. The intention is for Rochdale to publish this information by the end of January 2015. Going forward each Council will comply with the requirement to publish on a quarterly basis.

5. Grants to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations

Data will be published to ensure a full financial years grants are available by 31st March 2015. Each Council will decide whether to embedded in the contract register or publish as a separate item.

End.