

Housing consortium short-listed for two national purchasing awards

Procurement for Housing (PfH), the national buying consortium dedicated to the social housing sector, has been short-listed for two highly prestigious purchasing and supply awards.

The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) has nominated the consortium for '**Best Purchasing Initiative by a Smaller Organisation**'.

Julie Craig, Director of PfH has also been short-listed for '**CIPS Purchasing and Supply Management Professional of the Year**'. A record number of entries were received from UK businesses for the awards this year.

PfH's nomination for 'Best Purchasing Initiative by a Smaller Organisation' is recognition of the major impact the consortium has had in the social housing sector since its inception in 2004. PfH has already saved housing providers over £15 million. With ambitious plans to expand its portfolio of deals significantly over the next 12 months, PfH will make even greater savings for its 630+ Member organisations.

Julie Craig, Director of PfH has led her team to some outstanding achievements in the consortium's four years of operation. Not only successful in delivering huge savings for almost 60% of the UK's social housing sector, she has been responsible for new and innovative procurement practices. Julie has introduced a new purchasing account card; sustainable procurement initiatives and strategic and operational procurement workshops for social housing sector employees.

PfH is managed by specialist contractor Collective Enterprises Limited (CEL). Ian McCrae, Managing Director of CEL said: *"To be short-listed for two CIPS Supply Management Awards is a remarkable achievement. This has very much been a team effort and testament to the hard work and creativity of everyone involved in Procurement for Housing. We have made some major accomplishments over the past four years and these nominations are a national recognition of how well we have succeeded in saving money for the benefit of Social Housing."*

The 'CIPS Supply Management Awards 2008' celebrate excellence in the fields of purchasing and supply management. The winners of both categories will be announced at the awards ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London in September 2008.

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www.procurementforhousing.co.uk

Editor's Notes:

Procurement for Housing

PfH is the only national procurement organisation dedicated to the needs of the social housing sector. Following a successful two-year pilot, the National Housing Federation, Chartered Institute of Housing and HouseMark officially launched it in March 2004. The Housing Corporation also supports PfH.

PfH has been created as an essential business tool to generate substantial savings by harnessing the collective purchasing power of housing organisations. By reducing procurement costs, organisations can reinvest resources in front-line services, decent homes and vibrant neighbourhoods.

PfH currently has over 630 Members collectively managing over 2.6 million units, making PfH's purchasing power unparalleled in the sector. The consortium provides services in the following product areas: Office Supplies; Print Management & Design Services; Communication Services (Mobiles, Landline & Data), Personal Computers; Photocopying Equipment & Services; Energy; Vehicle Leasing; Central Heating Supplies; Janitorial Supplies; Bathrooms; Knowledge Based Services - Consultancy; Residential Furniture & Furnishings; Workwear & Personal Protective Equipment; Decorating Vouchers; Domestic Appliances; Kitchens; Knowledge Based Services – Workshops; Digital TV Reception Systems; Agency Labour and Postal Services.

PfH Membership

Any social housing organisation (including Housing Associations, LSVTs, ALMOs, and Local Authorities) can become a Member of PfH by paying a small fee based on the number of housing units they manage. HouseMark subscribers are eligible for free Membership.

Management of PfH

PfH is managed by specialist contractor Collective Enterprises Limited (CEL) – selected following an open tendering procedure through the Official Journal of the European Union. CEL has significant experience of collective purchasing in both the public and private sectors. The quality of the contractor's work is monitored and assured by HouseMark – the performance improvement subsidiary of the Chartered Institute of Housing. www.procurementforhousing.co.uk

The CIPS Supply Management Awards 2008

CIPS is the leading international body representing purchasing and supply chain management and was awarded the royal charter in 1992. The Awards, designed to celebrate and reward excellence in the field, are hugely respected and this is reflected in the blue chip list of fellow short-listees which includes: Marks and Spencer; BAE Systems; Ministry of Defence; BP; BBC; NHS; Sony; and Mars.

www.cipssmawards.com

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