

**PRESS RELEASE**

**NOVEMBER 2011**

**'MEET THE BUYER' HAILED A SUCCESS**



Over 80 construction companies and landlords from across the North West turned out to the 'Meet the Buyer' event at Lancashire County Cricket Club to learn about a housing model specifically developed for new build schemes. The event, which was hosted by North West social housing procurement consortium, Procure Plus, and procurement consultancy, Valueworks, featured speakers from Parkway Green Housing Trust, Procure Plus and Valueworks, along with Allan Foster from Homes and Communities Agency.

The 'Meet the Buyer' event brought together contractors and landlords who were interested in finding more about the New Build framework opportunity, which will achieve cost savings on new build social housing projects for Registered Providers (RPs).

Visitors listened to a presentation on the framework entitled the 'New Build Brokerage Model', which informed landlords of the cost savings the model provides by using volume procurement and collaborative purchasing strategies and working to realise an average 15



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per cent reduction in unit price. It also detailed the support RPs can receive in maximising Corporate Social Responsibility benefits and regeneration opportunities through the model.

Allan Foster, Design and Sustainability Manager at Homes and Communities Agency, said: "There's a real need for more affordable housing in the UK, so it's great that organisations like Procure Plus are explaining how it can be delivered cost effectively and sustainably."

Steve Brindle, Operations Executive at Procure Plus, who spoke at the event, said: "The day was a resounding success and it was apparent from the panel discussion and the questions from attendees that there is a real drive to fulfill the housing need. While the event offered landlords an excellent opportunity to meet potential contractors in the region, they were also able to find out more about the cost savings and regeneration opportunities the framework has to offer."

The Pre-Qualification stage of the procurement process is now available and the deadline for submissions is 12.00pm on Thursday 22 December 2011. Following this, selected contractors will receive an Invitation to Tender (ITT) in January, which will be in the form of an online questionnaire and tender. It is envisaged that work will commence on the framework in mid 2012.

**To find out more about the Procure Plus New Build Brokerage Model and PQQ, visit [www.procure-plus.com](http://www.procure-plus.com), or email: [frameworktender@procure-plus.com](mailto:frameworktender@procure-plus.com) or call 0303 030 0030.**

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### **About Procure Plus**

Procure Plus is a regeneration consortium of social housing providers that aims to generate efficiencies by leveraging the procurement of construction materials and contractors. The organisation is compliant with Audit Commission requirements and makes it easier to manage HCA funding for schemes, and it has created a web-enabled system that delivers the benefits of consortium purchasing and a check list to ensure rules governing funding schemes are met.

All savings and any surplus made by the consortia is reinvested in to local communities helping to create jobs and improve local facilities and schemes. It is expected that clients of Procure Plus will collectively invest over £1.5 billion in the repair and upkeep of properties between 2006 and 2010/11; it is anticipated that a substantial proportion of this will be channeled through Procure Plus.