

# Who are we? What do we do?

EPiC (Effective Procurement in Cumbria) is an established collaborative procurement arrangement across the Cumbrian public authorities.

Our aims are to:

- Deliver a joint tendering programme
- Prepare the business case for establishing a shared procurement service in Cumbria
- Use the North West e-tendering portal, The Chest
- Share documents and information electronically
- Increase efficiency savings & benefits realisation
- Proactive Supplier Engagement
- Procurement Training
- A collaborative approach to sustainable procurement
- Access to usable spend data and information

For further information please contact us:

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The one stop shop for  
local government procurement

## Effective Procurement in Cumbria

EPiC



Supported by



cumbria improvement and efficiency partnership



## Who are we? What do we do?

EPiC (Effective Procurement in Cumbria) is an established collaborative procurement arrangement across the Cumbrian public authorities.

Allerdale District Council, Barrow Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council, Lake District National Park Authority and South Lakeland District Council are all involved in EPiC. Cumbria Constabulary and NHS Cumbria will be joining in October 2010 which will help to make procurement more joined up across the county.

As pressure continues to improve efficiency, deliver better services and promote value for money; the goal is the establishment of a shared procurement service that is effective, sustainable and meets the needs of our communities.

Collectively the spend is in excess of £300 million with over half being spent in Cumbria. More and more procurement activity is being done through joint tenders across the county with smaller contracts let by individual authorities, or channelled through national frameworks.

We are simplifying trading with local government in Cumbria by introducing shared paperwork and procurement procedures.

## What is the first step to offering my services?

EPiC encourages competition and welcome bids from new and established suppliers. The North West e-tendering portal The Chest, is provided by Due North and is the key method of advertising contract opportunities. At present five authorities (Barrow, Copeland, the County Council, Lake District National Park and South Lakeland District Council) are advertising through the portal regularly, with the other authorities committed to following suit.

Suppliers can open up their supplies and services to a wider market, not just in Cumbria as 90% of authorities across the north west also use The Chest to advertise their opportunities.

Registration is simple and free and only takes about 15 minutes. Use the link [www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk](http://www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk) and when you are registered you will automatically receive an email alert for your categories of interest.

To find out more about EPiC and The Chest contact us on:

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