

## Centre of Procurement Expertise Performance Metrics

### Task and Finish Group

#### Terms of Reference

##### 1. Background

1.1 The [Public Accounts Committee - Report on Public Procurement](#) was published on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

1.2 The Report stated:

*“There is an essential need to ensure that the purchase of goods, services and infrastructure delivers value for money for the end user. This is the fundamental requirement of public procurement. Beyond achieving value in any single transactions, however, the effective management of procurement activity has a potentially powerful contribution to make to other key policy objectives of the Executive.*

1.3 At the time of this inquiry public bodies are working to deliver on these objectives within a context of recent significant changes being made to procurement arrangements and anticipated future changes as a result of the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 in February 2025.

1.4 In the course of this inquiry the Committee identified a number of risks and weaknesses within the arrangements used to manage procurement that pose a risk to these objectives.

1.5 These weaknesses, and the consequences that arise from them, significantly diminish the ability of public sector organisations to demonstrate to the taxpayer that the way procurement is managed and delivered in Northern Ireland consistently delivers value for money and effectively contributes to wider policy objectives where this is possible.

1.6 In reference to CoPEs the report stated whilst:

*“During its inquiry the Committee received assurances that this model achieves an appropriate balance between the centralisation and decentralisation of procurement expertise. However, in the Committee’s view these assurances are undermined by the lack of sufficiently detailed and specific performance information that can provide overall assurance that this system is consistently working effectively and delivering effectively. The Committee remain unconvinced by evidence provided that the current structures used to deliver procurement in Northern Ireland are sufficient to meet the challenges faced and maximise the opportunities for efficient and effective procurement services.”*

## 2. Task

2.1 This subgroup is tasked to take forward and agree metrics to meet two of the recommendations of the PAC, specifically:

### Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that within six months of the establishment of a procurement strategy, the Department establishes a set of metrics that will be used to provide the basis of cross-sectoral performance assessment for the effectiveness of procurement and ongoing evaluation of the impact and value of current CoPE structures.

### Recommendation 10

Upon the agreement of a set of performance metrics for procurement the Committee recommends that the Department engages with CoPE to establish proportionate arrangements to ensure the consistent recording of performance information needed to report against these.

## 3. Membership of Group

3.1 All CoPEs are required to and have agreed to membership and participation in the group.

CoPE	Members
BSO PALS	Angela McCormick
EA	Carolyne McArdle Damian McArdle
Health Estates	Ryan McCauley
Construction Service	Stewart Heaney
Translink	Mark McKenna
NI Water	Ian Presho
Housing Executive	Kate Weir
DfI Transport and Roads Asset Management	Aoife Duddy
Supplies and Services Division	Donna Williams

3.2 If a CoPE member cannot attend will send a delegated representative.

## 4. Frequency of Meetings

4.1 Meeting will be held monthly until the metrics have been agreed.

## 5. Secretariat

5.1 CPD Supplies and Services Division will perform the secretariat function.