

Investing-to-Save - Minister commends innovative approach

Ahead of the Draft Budget, the Finance Minister will today see how a new approach to buying goods is releasing savings for schools in Merthyr Tydfil.

Monday 03 October 2011

The Welsh Government Finance Minister and Leader of the House, Jane Hutt, will meet staff and pupils at Troedyrhiw Primary School in Merthyr Tydfil, and discover more about their innovative e-procurement system.

A project to introduce the XchangeWales e-procurement system into Merthyr Tydfil CBC was part funded by the Welsh Government's Invest-to-Save Fund, with a repayable grant of £217,292 being awarded.

This is helping the council to modernise and streamline the way it makes payments and assigns contracts, improving efficiency and making savings. The system is now in the process of being extended, and will be used across the borough within the next few months.

The project has the potential to release £8 million of efficiency savings over five years.

Minister Jane Hutt said:

"When I announce the Welsh Government's Draft Budget tomorrow, I will do so with a view to working towards a prosperous Wales for the future.

"It is no secret that we are facing tough financial times in Wales. As such, it is essential that those that deliver public services continue to explore different ways to deliver them, ensuring more cost effective approaches that do not compromise on quality.

"Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council can be proud in the way they have rolled out this innovative e-procurement project, and are setting a shining example for others to follow suit. I am delighted to be visiting Troedyrhiw Primary today to see for myself the benefits of Welsh Government work in partnership with the local authority.

"Our unique approach - particularly through Invest-to-Save investment, provides public bodies with the support they need to help them develop and take forward their improvement projects for the benefit of the public."

A new publication charting the progress of Invest-to-Save was announced by the Minister during the visit.

