This month’s top Innovation & Commissioning news:

**ICN Response to Kris Hopkins MP on public sector procurement reforms**
The ICN have responded to Kris Hopkins MP letter of 10 October regarding the public sector procurement reforms. Within our response, we have expressed strong concerns about the government’s proposals to remove PQQs for below threshold amounts, centralise the advertisement of contract opportunities and reiterated our stance, shared with the LGA, that the reforms are anti-localist, unhelpful to SMEs and will in fact benefit larger enterprises if introduced. Read the ICN’s response in full here.

**ICN Response to Cabinet Office Consultation on Core PQQ Questions**
The ICN have received a communication from the Cabinet Office in response to our comments on the recent consultation on core PQQ questions for above threshold amounts. Whilst SOLACE are disappointed that a mandatory approach is still to be pursued by government, we acknowledge and are appreciative that the Cabinet Office have taken account of our members’ concerns about a standardised PQQ being too restrictive. Read our response to the Core PQQ Questions consultation here.

**ICN Response to the Small Business, Enterprise & Employment Bill consultation**
On 16th October, the Cabinet Office launched their latest consultation on reforms to public procurement in Clause 33 of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill. The consultation document and further information can be found here. Read our response to the SBEE Bill consultation here.

**Lowestoft Rising – “we aim to create a single public sector delivery body”**
Billed as a “customer led transformation programme”, Lowestoft Rising is a radical approach to integrating public services, bringing together Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council, Suffolk Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner’s office and Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group. Aimed at reducing demand and improving outcomes for its residents, Lowestoft Rising’s approach focuses on cross-service redesign and building relationships between organisations and individuals, rather than discussing governance arrangements and pooling funding. Read more about their excellent collaborative work to date within these three informative presentations and reports – 1, 2 and 3.

**Derbyshire set to form first non-metropolitan combined authority**
Aimed at gaining ‘total place’-style devolutionary powers and funding, Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, and the eight district councils in the county are preparing an application to the DCLG to become the first non-metropolitan area in the country to form a combined authority. With additional aims of boosting the local economy and improving transport links, it is believed that the authorities would work together to deliver savings, whilst maintaining their service delivery roles and accountability locally. Read an overview presentation from Ian Stephenson, Chief Executive, Derbyshire County Council here.

**SOLACE Innovation & Commissioning Network**
The SOLACE Innovation & Commissioning Network brings together experts and practitioners committed to strengthening commissioning and sourcing practice and sharing learning. The network is supported by Activist Group.

To join the network, email andy.hollingsworth@solace.org.uk

Email your commissioning news to mike.wynn@activistgroup.co.uk