



Immediate Release

7<sup>th</sup> January 2008

### **Hedra wins Microsoft Shared Learning Group appointment**

Leading management consulting, solutions and service company, Hedra plc, today announced that it has been awarded a contract to provide programme office and advisory services to the Microsoft Shared Learning Group (SLG).

The SLG is a collaborative and innovative group of 12 local authorities who have Microsoft technologies at the centre of their business strategy. Working in collaboration with Microsoft's public sector division, its aim is to share best practice in ICT project delivery, jointly deliver MS-based solutions and contribute to the development of innovative solutions to improve council services. Hedra was awarded the contract to provide programme office and advisory services to the group for the next 12 months with options to extend beyond.

Hedra will work with the 12 local authorities throughout the year conducting healthchecks on all activities and workstreams, raising the strategic profile of the group with senior stakeholders and facilitating the group's transition to its next level of maturity – delivering sustainable business benefits from areas of collaboration.

Commenting on the appointment, Nigel Bates, Head of Local and Regional Government at Hedra, said: "Hedra is very excited to be working with the Microsoft Shared Learning Group on this project. We believe there is huge potential for this group of leading authorities to capitalise on their Microsoft solutions by sharing best practices and their deep understanding of the Local Government Transformation agenda. This will not only improve the services they offer but also create sustainable and cost effective new ways of working which use the very latest technology for the local authorities."

More...

## Hedra wins Microsoft Shared Learning Group appointment/2

Geoff Connell, Head of ICT at Newham Borough Council and member of the Shared Learning Group, commented: “We chose Hedra because of its broad range of services and deep knowledge of the UK public services which will help to deliver best practice and increased innovation to the group.”

Manoj Shetty, Head of Local and Regional Government, Microsoft: “Hedra applies real hands on solutions and Microsoft is confident its programme management will be a natural and beneficial addition to the Shared Learning Group. By all working together, Microsoft believes the Shared Learning Group can deliver innovative and practical solutions to the benefit of the wider local government community.”

~Ends~

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Hedra plc**

Hedra plc is a consulting, solutions and service company. We are the largest consultancy specialising in UK public services, with a significant private sector capability. Our clients include central government, local government, NHS, Ministry of Defence, aerospace, utilities and energy and a wide range of public service agencies. Our capabilities include business change and transformation, customer services, corporate services, procurement and supply chain, information management and systems engineering services. We help organisations to set corporate direction, build their organisational capacity and deliver solutions that drive effectiveness and efficiency. Our commitment is to deliver outcomes and benefits that drive superior performance.

[www.hedra.com](http://www.hedra.com)

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Carol Bartlett, Marketing Manager, Hedra plc

Tel: 01252 772900

Email: [carol.bartlett@hedra.com](mailto:carol.bartlett@hedra.com)

## **Shared Learning Group**

The Shared Learning Group includes Microsoft, Hedra, London Borough of Newham, the London Borough of Bromley, Derby City Council, the Isle of Man, Kent County Council, London Borough of Lewisham, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Sunderland City Council, Wakefield Metropolitan District Council and Warwick District Council.

It is chaired by Richard Steel, head of IT at London Borough of Newham, the group provides a regular forum for Group members and representatives of UK local government to discuss best practice and develop new ways to improve council services and efficiencies.

### **About Microsoft**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential.

### **For further information, please contact:**

Charlotte Crutchley

Edelman

020 7344 1543

Charlotte.Crutchley@edelman.com

### **For information on Microsoft Ltd, please contact:**

The Microsoft Press Centre

Tel: 0870 20 77377, lines are open 9.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday

Fax: 0870 20 77329

Email: [ukprteam@microsoft.com](mailto:ukprteam@microsoft.com)

[www.microsoft.com/uk/press](http://www.microsoft.com/uk/press)