

# UKUPC NEWSLETTER

May 2021 | Vol 3

*Collaboration Updates from the UK Universities Purchasing Consortia (UKUPC)*

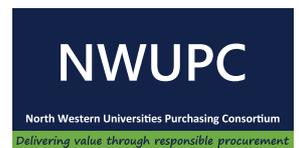


Welcome to your latest UKUPC Newsletter. The newsletter aims to update you on how your local consortium collaborates nationally with other consortia to deliver more benefits and greater value to you as a member. The banner under which the consortia work together nationally, is called UK Universities Purchasing Consortia, or UKUPC.

## UKUPC MEMBERS



North Eastern Universities Purchasing Consortium





# UKUPC IMPACT STATEMENT

The UKUPC 2019/20 Impact Statement shows how collaborative UKUPC activities have been supporting members during the last academic year. Included within the statement is an overview of how the UKUPC has been structured to deliver its nine strategic aims, which have been developed by the UKUPC Board to realise its vision.

Here are a few highlights, but please do read more within the report:

*Members spent £1.4BN through consortia frameworks and achieved £74.8M in cashable savings and £118.6M in non-cashable/process savings.*

*Members had access to over 150 agreements covering a wide range of strategic spend areas for your institution.*

*Members accessed risk assessments and best practice guides, along with guidance and support to address significant challenges such as COVID-19, Brexit and the responsible procurement agenda.*

The full UKUPC Impact Statement 2019/20 can be viewed [here](#).



# WHAT'S NEXT? POISED TO EMBRACE THE FUTURE OF PROCUREMENT

## **Getting a Member View on the Green Paper: Transforming Public Procurement**

Following the release of the Green Paper: Transforming Public Procurement by the Cabinet Office, we shared our analysis of how the reforms may affect university procurement.

To ensure the impacts of the potential procurement reforms on members were captured and communicated to the Cabinet Office, UKUPC partners asked members what they thought of the reforms and what they might mean.

While we encouraged all members to feedback individually as part of the national open consultation, we also wanted to ensure we provided a conduit for members to provide their input, should they wish. This approach helped to amplify the HE sector voice; a voice that needs to be heard – the HE sector is responsible for approximately £18bn in non-pay spend, annually based on 2018/19 HESA Data.

The UKUPC partners undertook a combination of research methods including both quantitative (online surveys) and qualitative (meetings, discussion groups and one-to-ones) to assess our members' views on the impact of the reforms on their procurement activity. This allowed responses from 137 organisations to be gathered to form a combined response – you can view the UKUPC members' response here.

The responses received from UKUPC members through the surveys and other discussions demonstrated their passion and commitment to ensuring that the proposals within the Green Paper are subject to comprehensive review and challenge.

We will welcome opportunities to engage with the Cabinet Office as the potential reforms are discussed and refined.

## Supporting Members with What's to Come

Procurement professionals are likely to need to develop negotiation skills to support an increasingly commercial approach to public procurement. There will also likely be a host of technical and digital innovations that members will need to contend with in both

the medium and longer terms. Working through UKUPC and with other sector bodies such as the Higher Education Procurement Association (HEPA), your local consortium will provide a range of opportunities to discuss what's coming down the pipe and how we can all make sure we're best prepared.

If you have specific ideas you want to share, please contact your local consortium – you can find details at the end of the newsletter.

Things you can do to get support now:

- Visit your local consortium website and sign-up for an online meeting or event
- Checkout the UKUPC news and resources area for best practice guides
- If you have an idea you want your consortium to look at, get in touch directly.

## UKUPC JUST A CLICK AWAY

Don't forget  
UKUPC  
are on Twitter!



Follow us @UKUPC for the latest updates. Have a question for us? Just drop us a tweet!



# COVID: ONE YEAR IN

Over a year on from the start of the pandemic, UKUPC continues to work collaboratively to support our members providing information, resources and guidance.

When people across the UK began working from home in March 2020, it was very much a temporary solution to what would turn out to be a long-term problem. As temporary home workspaces have become a more permanent fixture in our homes, many members have turned to UKUPC frameworks to ensure that workspaces are appropriate. For example, we have shared how suppliers to the national furniture framework have provided streamlined catalogues and confirmed that all provide home delivery options.

At the start of the pandemic, we supported our members as they donated essential PPE to NHS frontline and testing services. However, the need for PPE and another short supply equipment meant that members were often struggling to locate items in highest demand. UKUPC created a PPE sourcing tool, enabling members to locate stock swiftly and easily with weekly updates provided by suppliers. This information continues to be shared and will no doubt be extremely useful as we begin to welcome back students to campuses across the UK. Further to the early assistance of provision of PPE stocks from our sector to NHS bodies etc, as the year of Covid progressed, through close liaison with the NHS, Consortia in some areas were able to reverse this approach and facilitate the supply of NHS sourced stocks of PPE to member institutions to aid campus re-openings etc.

Ahead of the announcement in December 2020 that students would be required to undertake asymptomatic testing, NEUPC and LUPC had produced guidance to utilising the UKUPC Frameworks to support institutions purchase test kits for on-site testing. In addition, we shared details from existing framework suppliers who could provide the infrastructure needed for Asymptomatic Testing Centres, enabling students to return home safely.

As institutions begin to plan for the return of staff and students to campus, many are considering ways in which working, teaching, and learning can be more agile. From new resources such as protective screens and hand sanitizer stations to teaching space furniture that allows students on and off campus to experience live teaching, UKUPC continues to engage with our supplier base to bring members the latest thinking, products and services enabling you to deliver world class education and supportive work environments for your staff.

As a collaborative group we're always looking for ways to bring our members together, and although we still can't hold physical events, we have a range of conferences workshops webinars and discussion sessions taking place online. Whilst each consortium is very much looking forward to seeing our members in person, the benefits of our virtual events have meant that we are still able to connect our members and support our collaborative work.



## AN UPDATE FROM THE JCG

The Joint Contracting Group (JCG) is made up of representatives from all the regional UK university purchasing consortia along with TUCO, TEC, JISC and CPC. We meet monthly, collaborating effectively to ensure the efficient delivery of the agreed national contracting programme; this means our combined membership will always have access to compliantly and responsibly let framework agreements which consistently offer value for money and meet the needs of all stakeholders. Information on all our agreements will always be available, in a consistent format, with clear Buyers' Guides provided, and contact details for a procurement expert able to support their use.

Regular and appropriate contract management takes place throughout the year across all our agreements, and we discuss this activity at our meetings to ensure we are aligned in our processes. Over the past six months (since the last newsletter), our professional procurement teams throughout the country have, in a coordinated manner, continued to focus on working in partnership with our supply chain and ensuring that matters relating to COVID-19 and Brexit impacts and opportunities have been investigated well and communicated effectively. High level risks around supply chain delay, labour shortages, commercial aspects or changes to legislation were managed and mitigated as appropriate with the outcomes carefully shared with our membership in order that further conversations could take place at institutional level where those aspects had a high relevance.



Looking ahead, we continue to focus on how best to serve our collaborative membership. We understand the importance of demonstrating the value of procurement, we are therefore reviewing how we report the benefits of using our framework agreements; this includes how, in line with the HEPA benefits methodology, we can continue to provide you with accurate and credible reports on efficiencies.

Our national category groups, with representatives from each consortium, continue to meet regularly to ensure we share knowledge effectively and in a timely way.

We are also working towards alignment in our Responsible Procurement activity, which will be reflected in our tendering and contract management activity.

When we learn, we share that learning. We will continue to work together to provide guidance and training on matters relating to contracting activity which will help our members in their own roles.

If you have any queries regarding the work of the JCG, please contact your regional consortium or the current Chair of JCG, Emma Keenan, Deputy Director LUPC.

# RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

Since its inception in July 2020, the UKUPC Responsible Procurement Network (UKUPC RPN) has gone from strength to strength. With a defined remit of supporting collaborative responsible procurement activity in consortia purchasing, the group learn from each of its experienced regional representatives, as well as experts on specific subjects, and share best practice in order to improve outcomes. Meeting monthly, the Network has already published a helpful glossary on appropriate terminology, and an advisory document for suppliers on how to write a good modern slavery statement.

The Network recently pooled responsible procurement related wording, clauses and policies used in consortium tendering activity nationally; this is to ensure that we learn from each other effectively and adopt best practice examples as a UKUPC standard.

All UKUPC members who had not already done so, have recently committed to formally adopting the Sustain Code of Conduct; to support this project and our supply chain, the group are developing some supplier guidance on reducing climate emissions. A template action plan will be published particularly focussed on assisting SMEs.

We are now reviewing our combined supplier modern slavery statements. Between us, we will review the content and support our supply chain in raising awareness in this area and developing practices.

If you would like any further information on the work of the group, please contact your regional consortium or the Chair of the Responsible Procurement Network, Jayne Thorn, SUPC.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Your consortia are working hard to ensure you still have access to learning and development, and networking opportunities at a time where face-to-face contact is limited. Here are the latest upcoming events:

## APUC

ON-  
GOING



### Climate Literacy e-learning

The Scottish Government has published a Climate Literacy for eLearning course which is also available for use by UK HE/FE institutions. Developed by the Procurement and Climate Forum (of which APUC has representatives), the Climate Literacy eLearning has been designed to help procurers understand the Climate Emergency challenge, and to appreciate how procurement activity can support net-zero aims for their organisation. The eLearning comprises of 3 modules: The Climate Challenge; Responding to the Challenge; and Taking Action. Users will need to be registered on the tools website and login to access the eLearning.

**BOOK NOW**

## TUCO

01  
JUN  
2021



### Level 2 Healthy Food and Special Diets

Aimed at managers and supervisors responsible for the purchase, delivery, production and serving of food in campus and event catering. It includes an introduction to the Harvard University and Culinary Institute of America's Menu of Change.

**BOOK NOW**

22  
JUN  
2021



### Leadership Skills Webinar Day Course

The art of managing helps to get things done. The art of leadership helps to work out where you are going and encourage your staff to follow.

**BOOK NOW**

14  
JUL  
2021



### Change Management Webinar Day Course

Change is inevitable - 2020 has been an intense example of this. You cannot stop change, but you can learn to move with it. Managing people change is a critical skill in today's world of rapid and continuous change. A carefully planned approach ensures that problems are anticipated and opportunities seized.

**BOOK NOW**

## LUPC & SUPC

**20  
MAY  
2021**



### LUPC & SUPC Virtual Conference & Exhibition

This year's event will be a new experience for both members and suppliers alike, as we take our conference online with our first virtual exhibition. As there has been very limited opportunity within the last year for members and awarded suppliers to interact, we invite you to join us for an exciting free online event including webinar sessions and focused networking.

**BOOK NOW**

## NEUPC & NWUPC

**17  
JUN  
2021**



### NEUPC & NWUPC Virtual Conference

This year's event will be a new experience for both members and suppliers alike, as we take our conference online with our first virtual exhibition. As there has been very limited opportunity within the last year for members and awarded suppliers to interact, we invite you to join us for an exciting free online event including webinar sessions and focused networking.

**BOOK NOW**

For all events, we recommend double-checking before you book whether the event is restricted to local consortium members or open to non-members.

For support and enquiries, please contact your local consortium

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