

UKUPC

IMPACT

2021/22

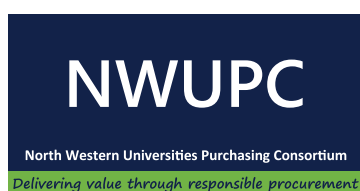
STATEMENT

Effective Collaborative Procurement for the HE Sector



UKUPC

UKUPC partners continue to collaborate strongly, sharing resources and expertise to optimise benefits to members, while avoiding duplication. UKUPC uses its unique knowledge of its members' needs, at a regional and national level, to continue to develop its suite of service solutions to members.



VALUE DELIVERED TO MEMBERS

Leveraging the benefits of collaborative procurement is at the core of UKUPC. The eight UK consortia work jointly on procurement activities with the goal of achieving financial and operational efficiencies, as well as sharing best practice. This year, our members spent £1.3 billion through our framework agreements.

Highlights include:



£1.3BN TOTAL SPEND
THROUGH AGREEMENTS



£119M CASHABLE
SAVINGS



£73M NON-CASHABLE
SAVINGS



169 UKUPC LED AGREEMENTS
AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS



33 NEW & RE-TENDERED
AGREEMENTS



1,147 SME'S AWARDED TO
FRAMEWORKS

SMEs make up 73% of
our awarded suppliers
across all frameworks

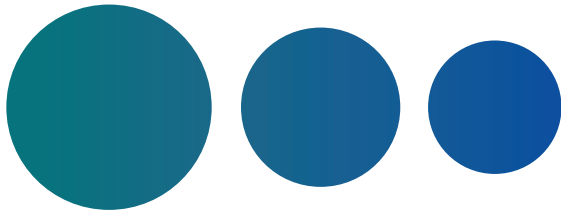


MEMBER BENEFITS

In addition to a full range of goods and services framework agreements tendered in compliance with the public contracts regulations, UKUPC members benefit from:

- ▶ Access to a wide range of local and national commodity, category and special interest groups that provide market insight, the sharing of best practice and networking across the membership.
- ▶ A range of free online events covering trending topics.
- ▶ Free regional conferences and national launch events to help members get the most of their membership and UKUPC frameworks.
- ▶ The ability to help shape agreements by participating in national Tender Working Parties.
- ▶ A vast range of resources and documents to help members make the best decisions and receive the support they need.
- ▶ Free and low-cost training through face-to-face or online courses and e-learning modules.





KEY UKUPC ACTIVITIES IN 2021-2022

QUARTERLY MARKET INSIGHT DOCUMENT

UKUPC's quarterly Market Insight Document, launched in September 2021, outlines issues impacting international and national supply chains. Written by consortia category managers and delivered by the UKUPC Joint Contracting Group, it covers considerations related to labour, logistics, regulations and commerciality at a category level, and provides:

- ▶ **A high-level guide to market activity, risks and opportunities in the wake of significant disruption following Brexit, Covid, the war in Ukraine, and a variety of other international natural, political, economic and social events.**
- ▶ **Information gleaned from a variety of credible sources, including directly from suppliers and appropriate media.**

The regional consortia share this quarterly document directly with their members and it includes a full detailed report and summary, with high-level information for circulation to colleagues interested in particular category areas. Feedback from members has been positive, with many finding it a helpful resource when considering their procurement activity. For the latest version of this document, please contact your local consortium.

RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

Responsible procurement is at the heart of everything we do to bring long-term benefits to the sector. Below is a summary of deliverables in 2021-22:

Developing a carbon reduction plan guidance

This guidance was aimed at small and medium enterprises (SMEs) supplying the HE sector and was shared with all UKUPC framework suppliers. The purpose being to obtain commitment to a carbon reduction plan by suppliers, aiding those universities who have pledged to be Net-Zero by 2030 with achieving their goal.

UKUPC demonstrated what COP26 means for its members

As **COP26**, the UN Climate Change Conference in 2021, was all about collaborative working, UKUPC took the opportunity to come together to highlight what COP26 meant to its members, and what action its collective membership is taking. Over the duration of COP26, UKUPC brought updates from the conference as well as showcasing UKUPC members planned activity in response to the climate emergency.

Higher Education Themes, Outcomes and Measures (HE TOMs)

UKUPC and some of its member institutions partnered with Social Value Portal on the official *Social Value guidance and measurement framework: Higher Education Themes, Outcomes and Measures (HE TOMs)*. This guidance helps HE bodies capture and communicate the full value of activities where they support their local economy and community. It also empowers and informs organisations so that embedding Social Value when procuring goods and services is simpler.



Plastics Packaging Tax impact

UKUPC worked with Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC) to identify the impact of the Plastics Packaging Tax 2022 on products members buy through framework agreements. Suppliers considered to be affected by the tax were contacted and asked to complete a short survey to determine if they were directly or indirectly implicated and to outline what mitigating action they were taking. The aim was to manage potential cost impacts and to highlight the positive steps suppliers were taking to optimise recycled plastic or alternative materials within the packaging used in the fulfilment of supply under UKUPC agreements. *The results of the Plastics Packaging Tax survey are here.*

ENGAGEMENT WITH INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENTAL BODIES

UKUPC acts as a focal point for engagement with broader industry and Governmental bodies to represent the views of HE and FE procurement. Examples this year included:

- ▶ **Participating in a Department of Education discussion convened to bring together representatives of the publishing industry, the HE sector, and the government to explore approaches for making e-book licences more affordable for HE libraries. This was with a particular view to ensuring students are not disadvantaged by pricing or availability of resources.**
- ▶ **Initiating discussions with the Business Travel Association to make representations to the Minister of Transport with reference to addressing post-Covid recovery across the travel industry.**
- ▶ **Working with the UK Government Commercial College to put in place arrangements to give UKUPC members access to its online learning resources.**

UKUPC Responsible Procurement Strategy

UK Universities Purchasing Consortia and its members are committed to working towards achieving all relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The objectives of the *UKUPC Responsible Strategy* have been written in relation to the relevant SDGs.

UKUPC Modern Slavery Series

Work commenced on five short videos to help raise awareness of the importance of eradicating modern slavery from society.

More information and guidance can be found on the *responsible procurement* page of the UKUPC website.

UKUPC WEBINARS

Throughout the year, UKUPC has delivered a series of free webinars for members covering some of the hottest topics in HE procurement. Each webinar was led by one of the regional consortia and took place every other month from September 2021. Focusing on the pertinent issues facing professionals working in procurement, they have enabled learning and engagement with colleagues nationally across the sector. Topics included:

- ▶ **Cyber Security**
- ▶ **Environmental, Social and Governance**
- ▶ **Addressing and mitigating supply risks in challenging times**
- ▶ **Opportunities for Circular Procurement**
- ▶ **Transforming Public Procurement: Preparing for changes to the PCR**

Recordings of these can be found on the *UKUPC website*.



SUPPLIER GUIDE TO TENDERING

Framework suppliers are key stakeholders for UKUPC, and it seeks to support them as well as its members. The UKUPC Joint Contracting Group created a *Supplier Guide to Tendering Document* and *interactive presentation* for suppliers on UKUPC framework agreements. It was produced to help potential bidders navigate the tender process and is particularly beneficial for those unfamiliar with public sector tendering. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) make up the largest proportion of the UKUPC supply base so it has been written with them in mind, helping them to overcome potential barriers they may face.

RESPONDING TO MEMBERS: AUDITING GUIDANCE

Throughout the year, UKUPC has responded to calls for assistance by members in specific areas. One prominent example is the *sector guidance on auditing services*. This was written to provide advice for members, helping to minimise poor response rates when tendering for external audit services. This guidance was widely distributed across the UK and utilised in webinars by our collaborative partner organisation, *HEPA*.

ABOUT UKUPC



UKUPC is a partnership between eight UK purchasing consortia who created a formal alliance to foster collaborative procurement within Higher and Further Education. All eight consortia are not-for-profit entities and work together to share knowledge and best practice, supporting members across the sector and the wider procurement community. Learn more and access a range of resources at www.ukupc.ac.uk.

UKUPC MISSION

To leverage the benefits of collaborative procurement: working across the UK HE consortia community to enhance procurement within HE and across our other members; helping deliver savings and efficiencies; maximising member benefits; embedding responsible, ethical procurement and social value using a sustainable supply chain management approach.

BOARD

The UKUPC Board provides strategic leadership to the UKUPC Focus Groups. They work together to share knowledge and best practice, to align and support the work of the consortia and the wider HE procurement community, and take overall responsibility for delivery of the nine strategic aims within the [UKUPC Strategy 2020-2025](#).

The UKUPC strategy is delivered through efficient collaboration and communication by the core working groups:

JOINT CONTRACTING GROUP (JCG)

Provides a strategic overview of the national Joint Contracting Programme delivery, working collaboratively to ensure that we have the right framework agreements in place at the right time for the sector.





COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Promotes the benefits of collaborative procurement; provides a range of events to consortia members, both regionally and nationally, for networking and sharing best practice; and ensures members have the guidance and documentation they need to make the most out of their consortia membership.

CONSORTIA INFORMATION SYSTEMS STRATEGY GROUP

Improves the information systems used by the consortia and our member institutions to better understand and develop data-informed procurement plans.

RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT NETWORK

Set up with the aim of achieving a consistent approach across the consortia to responsible procurement throughout UKUPC activities, assisting members to embed best practice within their own procurement operations.

For more information on anything you've read in this report, please contact your local consortium or visit www.ukupc.ac.uk.

