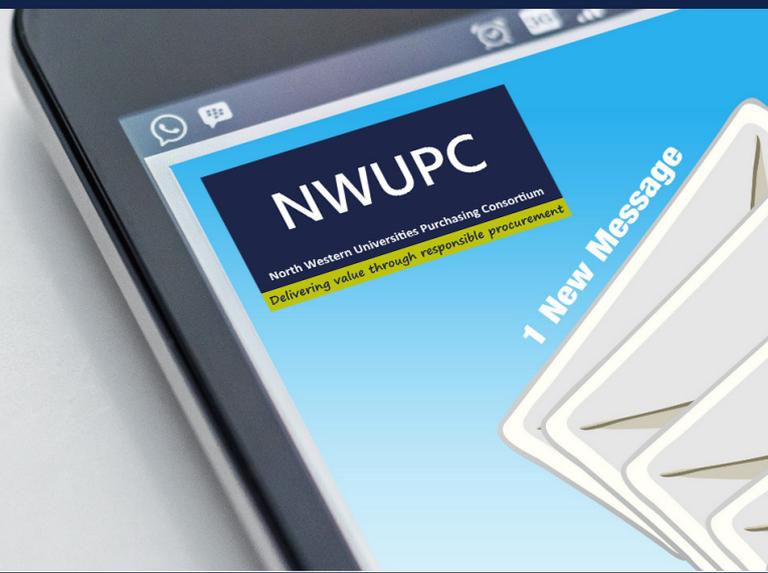


NWUPC e-Bulletin February 2021



A monthly round up of NWUPC news, including the latest on the Government's new Green Paper, Brexit and COVID-19. We also have Category Group and Framework information and upcoming events for NWUPC members.

NWUPC Launch New Logo

NWUPC

North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium

Delivering value through responsible procurement

NWUPC are delighted to officially announce the launch of our new logo as part of our brand re-refresh.

Our old logo has served us well for many years, but moving into 2021 with new challenges to face, it felt like the right time for a new look for NWUPC Ltd. With a clearer colour palette and more distinctive look our new logo sets itself out to be more recognisable for our members and framework suppliers.

It's a new logo but we're still NWUPC and you can still expect the same level of collaborative and innovative response to your procurement needs from the whole team.

Green Paper 'Transforming public procurement' issued

On 15th December 2020 the Cabinet Office issued a Green Paper 'Transforming public procurement' which intends to shape the future of public procurement in England. The government's goal is to speed up and simplify procurement processes, place value for money at their heart, and unleash opportunities for small businesses, charities and social enterprises to innovate in public service delivery.

NWUPC has been reviewing the paper to determine the potential implications for members' and consortia procurement. The government is conducting consultation with all members of the public sector and will close consultation on the 10th March 2021. As we welcome potential changes to procurement processes that will provide greater value to our sector, we are also considering all advantages, disadvantages and potential implications of proposed changes on members, consortia and our supply chains.

Your feedback as an NWUPC member is critical to this process and a survey has been issued to do this which can be [accessed here](#). The closing date for responses is 11:59pm on Tuesday 16th February 2021. Responses will be collated and shared for discussion at a focused Heads of Procurement meeting at 10:30am on Tuesday 23rd February 2021. All responses will be anonymised and NWUPC will represent your views directly back to the Cabinet Office to reflect local requirements before the 10th March 2021 deadline, and will also work collaboratively with our UK Universities Purchasing Consortia (UKUPC) partners to provide a sector-wide response that advocates for the best interest of our memberships. For more information on the paper you can go to our dedicated page on the [NWUPC Website](#).

Brexit

From the 1st January 2021 how we buy goods and services changed and NWUPC is working with our partners and suppliers to ensure that we are prepared for whatever Brexit brings to enable us to support our procurement community.

In collaboration with our UKUPC partners we are building up a picture of our supply chains and the impact that Brexit will have on their ability to service our commercial arrangements. We have undertaken a risk appraisal at framework level across the portfolio of agreements that are available to members and categorised them as high, medium or low. More details can be found at the NWUPC website on our dedicated Brexit pages which can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries or require further information please contact Helen Dodd-Williams on helen.doddwilliams@nwupc.ac.uk or call on 0161 234 8012.

Brexit Government Guidance

The government has confirmed that from the 1st January 2021, Contracting Authorities will need to publish their public sector procurement notices through a new e-notification service called 'Find A Tender'. A guidance document can be downloaded [here](#). This will replace the requirement to publish notices in the Official Journal of the European Union.

For those organisations that use an eTendering platform to publish your notices then you will need to ensure that the system can link to "Find A Tender". A list of providers that have already performed this development work is available on the gov.uk website. EU Supply, who are the single source provider awarded to the eProcurement System Framework available to the HE Sector, are confirmed on this list and will have the functionality when the system goes live in the New Year. Advice is available on the gov.uk website for those who do not currently use an electronic platform and you are encouraged to create a buyer's account on Contracts Finder.

It is anticipated that the "Find A Tender" service will be deployed at the end of the Transition Period here: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/> and this link will become live at that time.

If you have any queries regarding the eProcurement System Framework then please contact Natasha Peacock, NWUPC Senior Category Manager at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

COVID-19

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As the world faces uncertain times, it is important that we support one another and do what we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19. NWUPC, like many others, are working from home, as directed by the government. We have access to our systems so we are conducting business as usual. We are, however, here to help our members, partners and suppliers during this difficult time.



To help our Members to quickly and easily source essential products and services we have put together the below information showing a range of key areas identified to us and the Framework Agreements that cover these requirements.

Full details can be found at the [COVID-19 Section](#) of the NWUPC website where you will find regular updates, links to information and guidance available related to our frameworks to help support your work through COVID-19.

On Site COVID-19 Testing - a guidance document from UKUPC

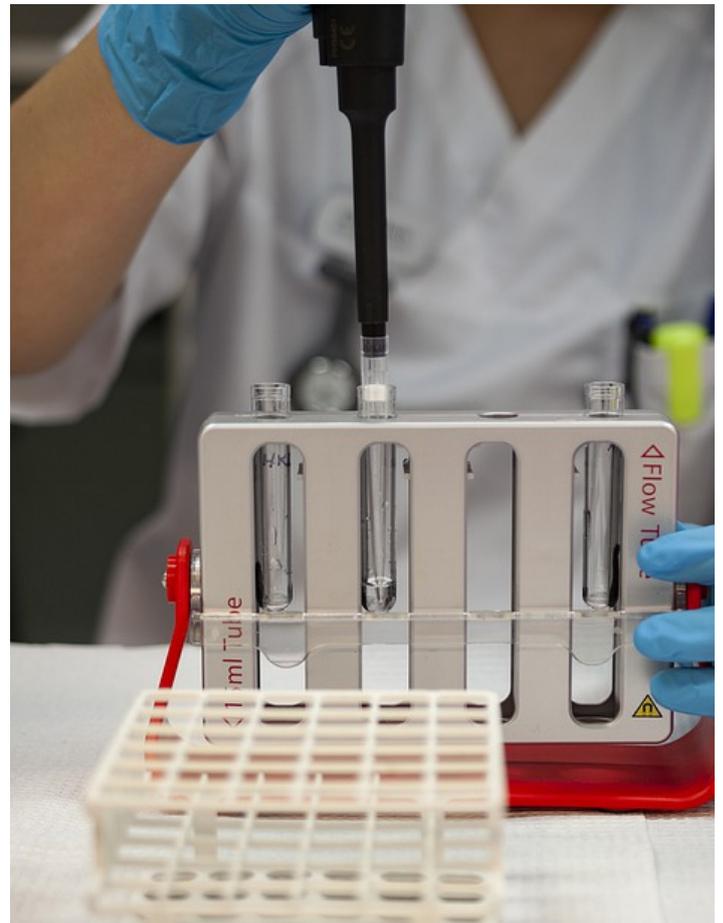
UKUPC (UK Universities Purchasing Consortia) have worked together to create the [following guidance](#) which provides the necessary and relevant information regarding on-site COVID-19 testing. The guide also includes tools for the procurement options available for testing via the relevant UKUPC framework agreements, including;

- Types of testing
- Considerations for delivering your own testing for staff and / or students
- Routes to market
- Questions to consider

Should you require further information please contact Senior Category Manager for NWUPC, Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

Weekly update of priority PPE items

As part of the CPC Framework Agreement - Personal Protection Equipment, Clothing and Uniforms (PPE), CPC have put together a weekly update on a list of priority PPE items. This document provides an up to date view of the lead times and stock levels of the awarded suppliers for a list of products that have been highlighted as urgent requirements at the moment. The list is updated weekly and [can be found here](#).



Contracting Activities

NWUPC

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The winter term is a busy period for tendering activity with the renewal process of several agreements advancing. The agreements span a wide spectrum of categories and cover the whole team. As such I would like to pass on my thanks to any Members who assist us as a member of a tender working party. Your input and technical knowledge is invaluable in shaping effective specifications and ensuring the sector's needs are met.

NWUPC Led Agreements

DOMESTICS

Cleaning Equipment - Supply and Maintenance

Review meetings will be held with suppliers in spring in line with the anniversary of the agreement. Furthermore, the first extension period for the agreement will be implemented. HEC will be updated once signed extension letters are received from all suppliers. For more information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

Washroom Services & Associated Products & Services

This agreement is in the process of being retendered. The agreement will see the introduction of a distinct lot for Period Dignity Solutions. This lot has a dual purpose of seeking to tackle period poverty with a focus on eliminating the mass consumption of period products using single use plastic. The lot covers product supply but also requires the supplier to commit to the provision of resources and training to support education campaigns on the use of reusable period products and period dignity programmes. The tender documents will be published to the market shortly and the replacement agreement is expected to be live in line with the expiration of the current agreement. If you require further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

ESTATES

Air Filters, Associated Products and Services

The retender process for this agreement will commence within the next few weeks, the Estates Category Group will be contacted, however if anybody would like to provide feedback or be involved in this process please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

Electrical Materials

The current agreement has been extended into its final 12 month extension, all suppliers have signed to this extension. Retender activities will commence in spring and the Estates Category Group will be contacted to request involvement in this process. If you require further information please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

FURNITURE

Soft Furnishings, Associated Products and Services

This agreement is now subject to the final 1-year extension period meaning that work on the retender will commence in the summer of 2021. Review meetings have been scheduled for April to review performance on the current agreement and to look towards the new agreement. A feedback survey will be released to members ahead of the meetings. If you require further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

White Goods & Associated Products & Services

There are some significant shortages within the industry across the full complement of manufacturers which means the ability to honour standard stock lists is severely impacted. There is volatility in pricing due to sharp increases in shipping costs which are impacting the ability/willingness of the companies to purchase stock at present and sure up supplies for the summer months. This means that there may be potential stock shortages in May/June with many distributors not ordering stock at the moment due to the additional shipping costs that are being passed on.

The retender submission deadline of the White Goods agreement has been extended until 12th February and the agreements live date is currently set for the 1st June. Suppliers expressed their resourcing concerns and ability to meet the deadline due to the national lockdown imposed in early January.

Contracting Activities

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With agreement from the TWP the deadline was granted an extension. NWUPC continues to monitor the situation. If you require further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Global Workforce Mobility Services

Following extensive stakeholder involvement the retender for this agreement has seen a change to its lotting structure to allow a number of the original services to now be grouped to better meet Member's needs. An 'end to end' Lot has also been added which allows Members to award to one Supplier for all Global Mobility activities unlike the previous agreement. This retender is now in the evaluation stage and is on track to commence the 1st April 2021. For more information on this please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IT Equipment Recycling and Disposals

The framework documentation that was created last year has been reviewed and is almost at the point where the NICT/TWP can review it. The aspiration is to have the new framework up and running by the end of June 2021. If you require further information about this framework please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Other Consortia led agreements

COMPUTING

Apple Equipment & Services (National) - HEPCW

The TWP group last convened on 11th December and agreed to extend the present agreement to end of April 2021.

The agreement strategy and draft tender documents were shared with the TWP group for comment in mid-December. It is still planned that the new framework will be in place for 1st May. For further information please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Server, Storage and Solutions National Agreement - SUPC

SUPC have recently appointed a Category Manager for ICT, Mark Lewis, further information on the retender of this agreement will be available soon. If you require further information on this please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Desktops & Notebooks NDNA - LUPC

The NDNA benchmark modelling continues to be updated as part of the seven supplier review meetings that were held w/c 11th and 18th of January. These have commenced and product materials and presentations are being shared as and when available. An internal NDNA meeting took place on the morning of 11th January to discuss several of the key strategy points ahead of the next tender due this calendar year. The draft timetable for this was presented to the group at the meeting and separate preliminary meetings were also held with Dell and Lenovo ahead of the reviews. It has been agreed to commence the process in November (PIN) leading to commencement on 1st July 2022. Subject to agreement from the present suppliers, the current agreement will be extended via an OJEU-placed modification notice and run to 31st July 2022 with a one-month overlap between the two. If you require further information please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Software License Resellers Agreement - SUPC

SUPC have recently appointed a Category Manager for ICT, Mark Lewis. An Award Notification was issued on 15th January, resulting in the mandatory 10 day standstill period.. If you require further information please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

DOMESTICS

Mail Services - NEUPC

This new agreement for the sector is currently out to market. The tender deadline was extended to accommodate disruption within the market at the start of 2021. For further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

Other Consortia led agreements

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ESTATES

Lifts: Consultancy, Maintenance, Refurbishment and Associated Installation Services Agreement - NEUPC

The retender for this agreement is due to be published and it is aimed that the new agreement will commence 1st April 2021. If you require more information please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

Water Quality Management - APUC

The retender process has commenced for this agreement, the Tender Working Party met in late January to discuss the strategy in the first instance. If Members have any feedback that they would like to add or would like to be a part of this tender working party please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

FURNITURE

Removals and Relocation Services - NEUPC

Evaluation is concluding on the retender of this agreement which is scheduled to commence early February. For further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

LABORATORY

Antibodies & Sera (and other related matrices) IRLA - SUPC

Work continues on the re-tender of this agreement which is on schedule to be live in accordance with the expiration of the current agreement at the end of June 2021. For further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

Laboratory Consumables & Chemicals IRLA - SUPC

The annual IRLA Price review has now concluded, details of which have been shared with the Laboratory category Group. The finalised agreed pricing will be in place from 1st February 2021, and updated price files are now available on HEContracts. Review meetings will be held for the agreement in March. If you have any feedback on any of the suppliers, please send comments to sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk by the end of February.

Laboratory Equipment Supply, Installation, Delivery and Post Installation Services - LUPC

The tender has been published to the market with a return date of Monday 1st March 2021. If you require further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

LIBRARY

Books, Language, E-books and E-textbooks - SUPC

SUPC hosted a supplier awareness event in December to highlight the changes being proposed to the new framework set to go live in September 2021, and also to offer the current incumbents an opportunity to showcase their existing and future service provisions.

For any further information, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Multi-functional Devices (MFD), Reprographic Devices, Associated and Managed Print Services and Recycled/ Refurbished Technologies - CPC

The new framework is scheduled to go live at the end of February/ early March. If any further information is required, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Printers & Managed Print Services (NEPA) Including MFD's - NEUPC

The agreement award report was sent 12th January to the TWP for approval and comment where required. No issues or matters arising have been notified at this time. For further information, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Legal Services - LUPC

The documents for the new tender are currently being finalised and the retender is due to be published over the upcoming weeks. For further information please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

Category Group and Membership Update

Happy New Year to you all!

Once again, I am pleased to provide updates regarding NWUPC category group meetings for the winter term. Despite the many challenges we all encountered last year, 2020 was a successful year for all our category groups with regular high attendance from most of our Member institutions. Even though all our meetings have moved online, the feedback we received suggests that Members continue to find all our category group meetings valuable. Likewise, the presentation from suppliers across all the groups were informative and continue to be well received by Members'.

This year also promises to be business as usual for all the groups with a series of meetings lined up for the winter period. As a responsive and innovative organisation, NWUPC continues to ensure that we have a more coordinated approach to our virtual meetings to make it worthwhile for our Members. In addition to our normal meetings, we have introduced brief interim meetings within some of our groups to enable Member's to share best practices and updates regarding measures taken by their institutions on pressing issues such as blended learning approaches to learning, COVID-19 virus responses and measures put in place by individual institutions for staff and students safety and well-being. We also cover future travel plans, COVID-19 testing and other relevant topics.

During these uncertain times, NWUPC promises to continue to engage and provide outstanding customer services to our Members, improve our framework agreements, and actively engage with all our suppliers for the benefit to our Members.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your total commitment and valuable support to all our category groups. I hope you continue to find our meetings valuable. I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Best Wishes,

Ayoade Onireti
Membership Services Coordinator

EConnect #18

Issue Eighteen of EConnect is available!

EConnect is NWUPC's e-newsletter focusing on sustainable practices and projects from across our member and supplier base.

There are some fantastic projects being undertaken by our members and suppliers alike and we are delighted to be able to shine a spotlight on them. The articles in this edition have been collated to showcase the wide range of initiatives being undertaken by our suppliers. Demonstrating their commitment to responsible procurement.

You can read EConnect and all of NWUPC's Newsletters at the Newsletter section of nwupc.ac.uk.



NWUPC Responsible Procurement Event

NWUPC are pleased to announce we will be hosting an online event dedicated to Responsible Procurement. The aim of the day is to showcase the wealth of work being undertaken by our team, our members, our suppliers and our partners. We are really proud of the progress, commitment and contribution we are making in this area and want to give all our members the opportunity to hear about it.

The event will take place on Thursday 25th February 2021. Please save the date in your diary now and use the link below to book your place. Full programme details, including sessions links, will be issued nearer the time. Sessions will be held throughout the day covering topics that have been requested by our members, including;

- NWUPC's sustainability leads will provide an overview of activity within the consortium and how responsible procurement is embedded within the service provided to members. This will include; addressing modern slavery within supply chains, SME support and engagement and environmental considerations.
- An update on the NETpositive Futures Supplier Engagement Tool including new developments and innovative practice. As part of NWUPC's commitment to Sustainable Procurement, and to our members in developing responsible supply chains, we work in partnership with NETpositive Futures. Jimmy Brannigan, Director at NETpositive Futures will be leading a session about how NETpositive Futures help suppliers to take practical action environmentally, socially and economically and how this supports excellent procurement. This session will focus on how to undertake and implement sustainability impact assessments.
- Electronics Watch is an independent monitoring organisation set up with the purpose of protecting the rights of workers within supply chains. Their focus is on working with public sector organisations who purchase electronics and collaborating with them to have a positive impact on workers through the goods the public sector procures. This session will provide an introduction about who and what Electronics Watch are and an update on their Socially Responsible Public Procurement Platform, including the Public Buyer Toolkit.
- How an SME has turned the challenge of operating during a global pandemic into a business opportunity including reflections on ways of working and projects we think provide meaningful learning for procurement professionals. As part of NWUPC's commitment to Sustainable Procurement, and to our members in developing responsible supply chains, we work in partnership with NETpositive Futures. Sheri-Leigh Miles, Director at NETpositive Futures will be leading a session about how NETpositive Futures have used lockdown to rethink how they support their clients to engage and innovate in challenging times. This session will include learning from projects relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Climate Action.

Please book your [place here](#) - full programme and further details will be circulated prior to the event.

Please share this information with your colleagues.

Upcoming events

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As the sector continues to recognise the importance of contract management and administration as core procurement functions, we are seeing the need to move away from emails, spreadsheets and traditional manual processes when managing contracts and suppliers. With this in mind, NWUPC and EU Supply

(trading as Mercell) have arranged an online interactive demo of their contract management module eContract Management for our members.

eContract Management is part of the company's wider CTM (Complete Tender Management) system that is available to members across the UK Universities Purchasing Consortia (UKUPC) through LUPC's eProcurement framework. Thanks to the modular nature of CTM, members can purchase eContract Management as a standalone module to be used alongside their incumbent eProcurement platform. To book your place at this [free event click here](#).

eContract Management demonstration

Date - Tuesday the 9th of February 2021

Time - 14.00-16.00

Where – Online - FREE TO NWUPC MEMBERS

VWR - Higher Educations: Data Breach & Privacy Claims for Universities

Date - Tuesday the 16th of February 2021

Time - 11.00-12.00pm

Where – Online - FREE TO NWUPC MEMBERS

With ever increasing amounts of personal data being held and processed by organisations, data breaches and privacy claims are becoming more and more common - both for HE institutions and more widely. In this webinar we will look at:

What to do if you become aware of a data breach in your organisation and the issues you should be aware of;

The types of claims that could be brought;

How much these claims are likely to be worth, taking into account recent case law;

To book your place at this [free event click here](#).

Join EAUC and their members for an informal discussion on addressing embodied carbon and scope 3 in HE construction and procurement.

Speakers include :

Peter Hayakawa, Procurement Policy Officer,
University of Edinburgh

Peter Phelps, Energy & Environment Manager,
University of Bath

Joel Cardinal, Head of Energy & Sustainability,
University of Warwick

To book your place at this [free event click here](#).

Embodied carbon in HE construction and procurement

Date - Wednesday the 24th of February 2021

Time - 14:00 - 15:30

Where – Online - FREE TO NWUPC MEMBERS

If you have any upcoming events, webinars or training sessions that you would like to make NWUPC Members aware of please contact David McIntyre, NWUPC's Communications Officer at david.mcintyre@nwupc.ac.uk

Upcoming NWUPC Category Group Meetings

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Computing Category Group Meeting – Friday 12th February 2021.

Estates Category Group Meeting – Wednesday 24th February 2021.

Laboratory Group – Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

Office Solutions Category Group – Friday 5th March 2021.

Telecoms Category Group – Friday 12th March 2021.

Furniture Group – Friday 19th March 2021

E-Market Place Group- Wednesday 21st April 2021

For more information on our Category Groups please go to our Category Groups page at nwupc.ac.uk.

HEPA

Procurement Value Survey Extension

Following several requests due to the impact of Brexit preparations and the Covid-19 pandemic, the deadline for Procurement Value Survey (PVS) submissions has been extended by two weeks until Friday 12th February. HEPA have resources available to help you complete the survey which can be [found here](#).

E-Learning

As a member of NWUPC, you have access to 11 free e-learning courses, relevant to finance and procurement. Please [click on the link](#) and login to find out more.

Competency Toolkit

You may also like to access HEPA's Competency Toolkit to assess your current skills, identify areas of training, development needs and support your career planning. The link also includes information on the current skills and competency levels required by all staff in the procurement process. For more information [click here](#).

HEPA / UKUPC Learning and Development

The group is currently working on creating a training programme. You will be made aware of training courses as they become available.

We encourage you to take full advantage of the courses being provided and hope that they meet your needs as procurement professionals.

Any feedback you may have is welcomed. Please direct this to David McIntyre, NWUPC's Communications Officer at david.mcintyre@nwupc.ac.uk.

On Thursday the 25th February we are holding
the first...

NWUPC Responsible Procurement Event

[Click here for more information and to book your place](#)