

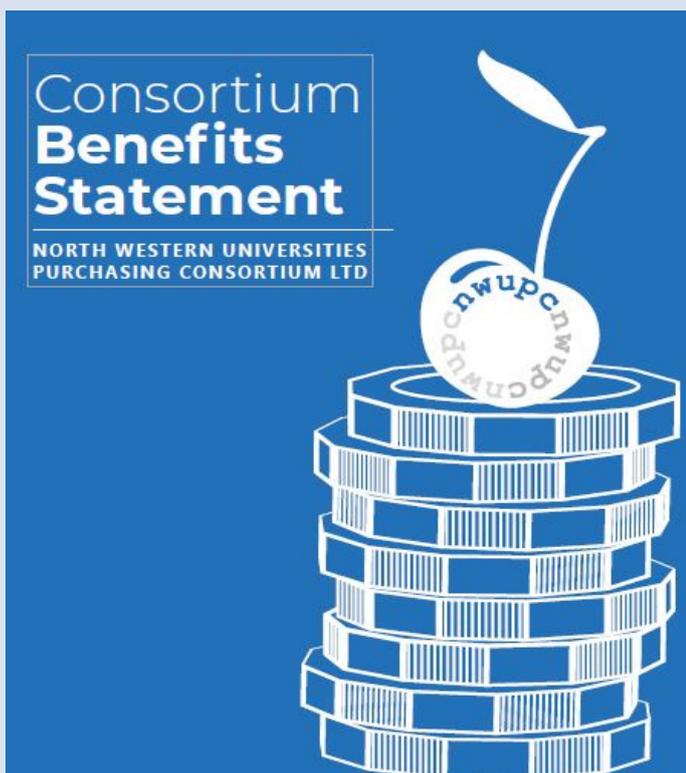
NWUPC News November 2020



A monthly round up of news, webinars and upcoming events for NWUPC members. Including the latest on Brexit, COVID-19, UKUPC, Category Group and Framework information



North Western Universities
Purchasing Consortium



Member Benefits Statements

NWUPC have just released our 2019/20 Benefit Statements to our members. They are an individualised document for each institution and provides a high level spend profile for 2019/2020.

They highlight the benefits and savings achieved through membership of NWUPC Ltd. Our team of Category Managers have reviewed the data and provided a bespoke summary of the usage of our agreements and any areas of opportunity to generate additional savings.

COVID-19

As the world faces an uncertain time at present, 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, the other UK consortia 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.

Back To Work Supplies

To help our Members to quickly and easily source essential back to work products and services we have put together a page of COVID-19 specific information. Showing a range of key areas identified to us and the Framework Agreements that cover these requirements in an easily digestible format. For more information go to nwupc.ac.uk.

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](#).



Brexit

In 2019 the UKUPC members undertook an assessment of our supply chain to consider the risks that Brexit would pose. Collaboratively, we contacted all high and medium risk suppliers to get an understanding of what mitigation plans were in place. This information was shared with our collective membership to help inform your activity.

As the December 2020 deadline draws closer, we have reviewed the risk appraisal at Framework level across the consortia. We have written to all suppliers who are in the high and medium risk categories with a focus on the four key areas of regulatory, supply chain, labour and commercial. We are in the process of collating this information through our joint Supply Chain Management tool that we now utilise to facilitate our contract management activity.

The information will be available to NWUPC members through our website and will be updated on a weekly basis as we increase the responses that we have received. Look out for communications on this report through the Category Group emails. If you have any queries on how NWUPC is preparing for Brexit then please contact Helen Dodd-Williams on helen.doddwilliams@nwupc.ac.uk or call on 0161 234 8012.

Launch of the new UKUPC website, new strategy and biannual newsletter!

UK Universities Purchasing Consortium (UKUPC), comprised of the regional purchasing consortia (APUC, HEPCW, LUPC, NEUPC, NWUPC, SUPC), The Energy Consortium and The University Caterers Organisation is working closer together than ever before to deliver value for our members.



UK Universities Purchasing Consortia

We are also pleased to share the [UKUPC biannual newsletter](#) to update you on our latest activity.

UKUPC have also launched a [brand new website](#). The website hosts the latest news and resources from UKUPC as a whole, responsible procurement updates, and up-to-date contact details.

The UKUPC Board would also like to share the [UKUPC Strategy for 2020-2025](#) with you. We invite you to read how our strategic aims support our mission of leveraging 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.

Update on COUP2021



The decision has been taken, by LUPC, to postpone the Conference on University Procurement (COUP2021), originally scheduled for 7th-9th September 2021, due to the ongoing uncertainty around COVID-19 and the impact this is having on face-to-face events. Arrangements are currently being made for the event to take place the following year, 6th-8th September 2022. Further details will be available in due course.

SUPC Launch New Website!

SUPC (Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium), NWUPC's sister Consortia covering the South of England have unveiled their new website.



With a more modern and intuitive design, the new website makes it easier to find the information you need. You can [find it here](#).

Contracting Activities

The autumn term is a busy period for tendering activity with the renewal of several agreements underway. The agreements cover a variety of categories and require different specialisms. 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.

We have also begun work on NWUPC's first Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) which is very exciting and we look forward to being able to offer increased flexibility for members and suppliers alike through this method.

New Agreements

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Work is being undertaken to identify new framework opportunities within the Professional Services category, a survey has been sent out to the group. However, if Members have any feedback to provide please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

ESTATES

Work is being undertaken to identify new framework opportunities within the Estates category, which was discussed at the Estates category group meeting in October. However, if any Member has any feedback please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.



NWUPC Led Agreements

DOMESTICS

Washroom Services

Work is underway on the re-tender of this national agreement. Pre-market engagement has been undertaken and the first draft of the strategy has been issued to the tender working party. The tender working party met on 20th October to progress the tender. If you would like to provide any feedback on the current agreement to influence the strategy, please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Global Mobility Support Services

This retender is currently in progress and is set to be published towards the end of November. The new agreement is set to cover the full end to end activities of International Employee Mobility. Work is being undertaken to improve the scope and lotting structure of the new agreement therefore if Members do have any requirements that they would like to be included or any feedback to provide please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Print Solutions

In conjunction with the existing Framework, we are working on introducing a DPS Framework that will give Members better choice and far more flexibility. A timetable is being drawn up, salient information is being gathered and the aim is to have this in place by March 2021. For anything further, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Other Consortia led agreements

COMPUTING

Apple Equipment & Services - HEPCW

This framework, due to expire in December will be extended until the end of March 2021, with the new framework expected to go live in February, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Online Streaming and Services - APUC

This framework is due to go live in November. Further details will be shared with Members once this has been actioned. Should there be any issues or queries beforehand, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Servers, Storage and Solutions (SSNA) - SUPC

The most recent TWP meeting took place on 22nd September, with the final draft of the strategy now finalised along with the selection questionnaire. There has been a change in Category Manager and the project is currently being managed by interim consultant, Sarah Gibson. At present, we are on track to have the new framework in place for May 2021. For further information, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

Software Licence Resellers Agreement (SLRA) - SUPC

At present, Tender Evaluation and Scoring has been undertaken and was completed at the end of October. It is anticipated that the current framework may need to be extended by 1-2 months in order for the new framework to be implemented successfully. There has been a change in Category Manager and the project is currently being managed by interim consultant, Sarah Gibson. For further information, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

DOMESTICS

Mail Services - NEUPC

This agreement is now live and has been published. The agreement covers domestic and international mail services and includes digital solutions within its scope. If you require further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

ESTATES

Doors Maintenance, Repair and Installation Services Agreement - APUC

The new APUC Doors Maintenance, Repair and Installation Services Agreement is currently in its evaluation stage and is aimed to commence in December 2020. Further information will be distributed to the Estates category group once received.

Grounds Maintenance - CPC

The retender of the Grounds Maintenance Framework Agreement led by CPC is currently being awarded. This is set to commence in November in line with the expiry of the current agreement. Further details will be distributed to the Estates group once the award has finalised.

Lifts: Consultancy, Maintenance, Refurbishment and Associated Installation Service - NEUPC

The NEUPC Lifts Agreement has been extended for 6 months until the 31st March 2021. If any Member would like to be a part of the TWP for this agreement or provide any feedback please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

FURNITURE

Removals and Relocations - NEUPC

Work has commenced on the retender of this agreement, with the current agreement due to expire at the end of January 2021. The tender working party have met and the first draft of the strategy has been issued for review. If anyone would like to participate in the process, please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

LABORATORY

IUPC Lab Gases – SUPC

The framework agreement was due to expire at the end of October. The agreement was extended further to October 2021 to accommodate the retender process which was disrupted as a consequence of capacity constraints caused by the pandemic response. Further information will be distributed confirming the duration of the extension once the extension is confirmed with all suppliers. If you require further information please contact Sarah Dye at sarah.dye@nwupc.ac.uk.

Other Consortia led agreements

LIBRARY

Books - SUPC

Work is on-going and the strategy is at draft stage with consortia being given the opportunity to comment, following which existing and potential suppliers will be engaged. Should there be any queries, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Multi-Functional Devices - CPC

The OJEU Notice was issued at the beginning of October with the formal award planned to take place in late January. Following a 4 week period of implementation, the Framework is planned to go live on the 22nd of February. If any further information is required, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Printers and Managed Print Services (NEPA) - NEUPC

The contract has been extended until the end of Jan 2021. The new tender has been released and responses were requested to be returned by the middle of October. Evaluation will be completed late November with the successful suppliers being awarded onto the framework in December/January. For any further information, please contact David Yates at david.yates@nwupc.ac.uk.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Legal Services - LUPC

The retender process for the LUPC Legal Services Agreement has commenced. If any Member would like to be a part of the TWP for this agreement or provide any feedback please contact Natasha Peacock at natasha.peacock@nwupc.ac.uk.

Category Group Highlights

Once again, I am pleased to write about the NWUPC category group meetings that took place during the autumn term, recent events as well as information about upcoming group meetings.

As you are all aware, we took the decision earlier in the year to move all our Category Group meetings for the summer and autumn term online. These virtual meetings have continued to work well and are attended by members across all the category groups. I have received some excellent feedback from members in this regard.

The autumn term group meetings focused mainly on ongoing actions/updates on Coronavirus response measures taken by individual institutions, current tendering plans of members as well as any supplier feedback. Members also used the meetings to share their experiences of making workspaces safe, their plans for reopening, suppliers support as well as support needed from NWUPC.

Professional Services Group

The Autumn term category group meetings kicked off with the professional services group meeting on Friday 11th September 2020 via Teams. The meeting was ably chaired by Kathy Houghton (deputy chair). Natasha Peacock provided updates on individual framework agreements as well as updates on new tenders. The group received presentations from KPMG and Grant Thornton. Kathy Houghton used the meeting to inform the group that she is stepping down from her role as deputy chair due to workload demands from LJMU. Kathy asked anyone interested in the role to contact myself, Ayo Onireti, as NWUPC's Membership Services Coordinator. I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thankfulness to Kathy for all help and support to the group over the years.

Interactive Drop-in Session for the Estates Category Group

The Estates Group interim meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 agreed that a quick interactive drop-in session would be beneficial to members. The drop-in session is a forum where members can freely

discuss potential general issues or areas that they require further clarification on. The session is also aimed at providing additional support to our members during these challenging times. The drop-in session took place on Thursday 17th September 2020 via Microsoft Teams hosted by NWUPC. We are currently working on further initiatives that will allow us to launch the drop-in session for other category groups and I will share more information on this soon.

Furniture Category Group

The Furniture Group met on Friday 2nd October 2020 via Teams. If anyone is interested in the position of chair for this group please contact Ayo Onireti at Ayoade.Onireti@nwupc.ac.uk. Members of the group also provided individual updates on their institution's Coronavirus response measures, their current/future tendering plans, furniture for home-working, as well as any supplier feedback. The group received a presentation by James Knight from Senator Group.

Domestics Category Group

The group met on Wednesday 14th October 2020. Members used this meeting to share measures and approaches taken by their institution to address the spread of coronavirus in their student accommodation. Members also discussed actions taken to minimise waste where food packs are being provided for students in self isolation. The group received a presentation from Becca Bell from Hey Girls on period dignity initiatives, the environmental impact of sanitary products as well their product offerings including plastic free sanitary products.

Office Solutions Category Group

The group met on Friday 16th October online via Teams. The meeting was chaired by Chris Benson (deputy chair) in the absence of Linda Sutton. Members shared individual updates about measures taken by their institution against Coronavirus. Members also discussed ongoing projects, feedback from suppliers and spend updates. Dave Yates updated the group with key points from the Q4 review meetings with suppliers on Lot 1 – 3 of Office Supplies Framework. The group also received a presentation from Allwag Promotions.

Estates Category Group

The Estates group met for the third time during the autumn term following the interim meeting and interactive drop-in session earlier in September. As usual, the group engaged in discussions on framework agreements, supplier's performance as well as projects from individual institutions.

As always, I would like to express my thanks to all the group members for attending our meetings and for their continued support and contributions to the Category Group meetings.

Ayoade Onireti
Membership Services Coordinator

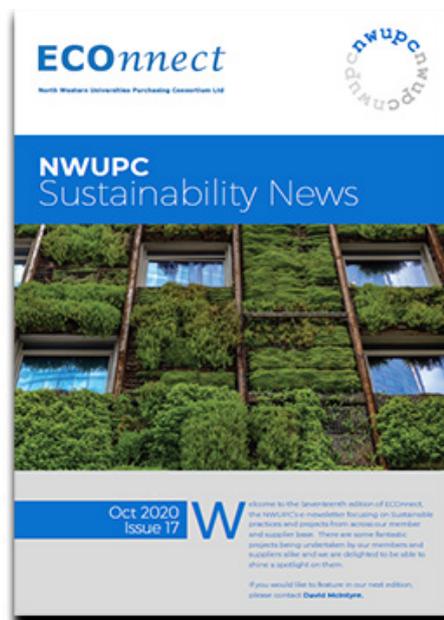
EConnect #17

Issue Seventeen of EConnect is out!

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.

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



Upcoming events

TUCO Webinars Held Weekly

TUCO have held a series of weekly webinars every Thursday at 2:00pm.

Go to the [TUCO Website](#) for more details and to watch previously held webinars.

They have also been running some online panel roundtables with key catering & hospitality members, discussing how they're adapting to the new normal and what they expect to happen when students go back to Uni etc.

A recap of the last discussions [can be found here](#).

HEPA - Customs Training Webinars

12th November 2020
10:00am - 4:00pm
£300 + VAT

BUFDG are running a number Customs Training sessions in November, ahead of Brexit. David Miller from The Customs People will be preparing a course specifically for the HE sector and delivering it over two sessions in one day. Numbers will be limited to 25 people per day, but the session will be run as many times as is needed. This course is aimed at all staff that are involved in imports/exports within a university – it is not specific to in-house tax departments or finance teams.

For more information on areas the course will cover, [please click here](#).

Achilles - End of the EU Transition Period

End of the EU transition period: public procurement implications
9th December at 11:00 AM

Hear from Professor Sue Arrowsmith on the latest updates in the public procurement regulations, old and new case law, recently transcribed by her and available on THEMIS, plus direct awards and COVID-19 for procurement professionals.

This session is free for NWUPC Members.

Click [here for more information](#) on the areas the course will cover.



TUCO Annual Conference 2020

Wednesday 18th November 2020

10:00am - 4:00pm

This year's TUCO Conference will be an interactive and engaging virtual event replacing their normal face to face offer – meaning even more of your teams than usual will be able to attend and add to their professional development.

For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

Black Tie & Slippers - 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Join TUCO after the conference for a TUCO first:
A live cookalong and evening meal!

Dress code will be black tie and slippers - but don't worry, it's optional!

To book your place, [click here](#).

Please note: The TUCO Conference is free of charge for TUCO full members, including the evening event. Consortia members who are not TUCO members will have to pay a non-member charge.

Upcoming events

SUMS Annual Conference 2020

Friday 27th November 2020

9:30am - 3:45pm

Opportunities to Transform the Sector

This year the SUMS Annual Conference will be delivered as a virtual event.

Recognising the challenges presented by COVID-19 we are embracing the opportunities offered by modern technology. With options to dip in and out of content over the day, the virtual programme will include a host of amazing guest speakers

For more information and to book your place, [click here](#).

Please note: The SUMS Conference is free of charge for SUMS members. Consortia members who are not SUMS members will have to pay non-member charge.



Upcoming NWUPC Category Group Meetings

Telecommunication Group - Friday 20th November to be held online

Laboratory Category Group – Wednesday 25th November to be held online

Travel Category Group – Wednesday 2nd December to be held online

Heads of Procurement Group – Friday 13th of November, Tuesday 15th of December - to be held online

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

HEPA

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.

An interview with....

David McIntyre, NWUPC's Communications Officer

What does your typical day look like at NWUPC?

With the team now being based from home I find the commute a lot easier but it's very much still a busy day. I normally start the first hour going through emails and then it's working on the myriad of projects and items I have for that week. Getting the right information passed out to our members and suppliers and helping promote NWUPC as a whole.

What is your favourite part of your role at NWUPC?

I really like that I get to be imaginative and help create new ways to promote the work we do to our members and suppliers.

Is there anything you are excited to be working on?

Currently I have just started work on a big social media push before Christmas which should be very enjoyable as there are so many component parts.

A fun fact about me that you might not know is...

I'm very good at ironing.

What would your perfect weekend consist of?

A sleep in past 9am and being able to go somewhere other than my house at the moment.

What would you take with you on a deserted island that you couldn't manage without?

Cheese and bread.

Next thing on your bucket list...?

Hopefully once lockdown is over to visit my brother and friends in Canada.

Poppadom or Bread?

Bread every time.

What is your favourite chocolate bar?

Twirl or a Kinder Bueno. I can't decide.

We have launched our **NEW Website!**

VISIT NOW!

