

# UKUPC NEWSLETTER

October 2020 | Vol 2

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



## UKUPC MEMBERS



North Eastern Universities  
Purchasing Consortium



North Western Universities  
Purchasing Consortium



ENERGY & EDUCATION CONNECTED



The University Caterers Organisation

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 STRATEGY

UK Universities Purchasing Consortia (UKUPC) is the representative body for UK regional and specialist purchasing consortia. We all work together to ensure that where appropriate, we align our practices and deliver what our members need, when they need it, adding value, saving money, embedding sustainable and responsible procurement, and delivering social value.

In the UK, the combined spend on goods, works and services of our Higher Education Institutions and other members is over £10 billion per year, with our members spending around £2 billion through our framework agreements – the opportunity for consortia to help universities achieve value through their procurement is clear.

You can read the recently developed UKUPC Strategy, which outlines the benefits of working with consortia for members, our strategic aims and key areas of focus. If you have any comments, please get in touch with UKUPC Board Chair and Managing Director of TEC, Richard Murphy.

Read the full strategy [here](#).



## 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.*

# UKUPC JUST A CLICK AWAY

We are delighted to announce the launch of the UKUPC website to provide you with the latest news and resources from UKUPC as a whole, in addition to activity by your local consortium. The site will also hold the UKUPC strategy, details on responsible procurement, and the latest contact details so you're able to get in touch any time.

Visit us now



Did you know we're also on Twitter? Follow us [@UKUPC](#) for the latest updates. Have a question for us? Just drop us a tweet!

## RESPONSIBLE PROCUREMENT

UKUPC set up a new Responsible Procurement Network in July 2020 in order to achieve a consistent approach to responsible procurement across the consortia. The network currently meets on a monthly basis.

The group reviews and promotes good responsible procurement practice across our combined membership, aiding both consortia procurement professionals and our members to embed best practice within their procurement operations. Further objectives include the review of supply chain risks and provision of guidance in building supply chain resilience in

relation to ethical procurement and the impacts of climate change.

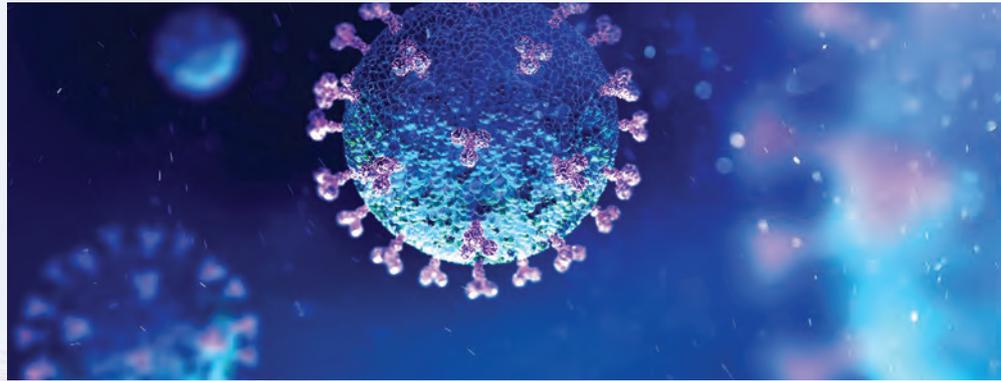
Each UKUPC member consortia has a representative on the network, which reports directly to the UKUPC Joint Contracting Group (JCG). The network also updates the HEPA Responsible Procurement Group on consortia and collaborative responsible procurement activities.

The group is currently working on the development of UKUPC Guidance Principles for Responsible Procurement and agreeing a common set of terminology and definitions.



# COVID RESPONSE

Right from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, members of UKUPC have been working collaboratively with procurement teams playing a key role supporting the national effort to combat the disease.



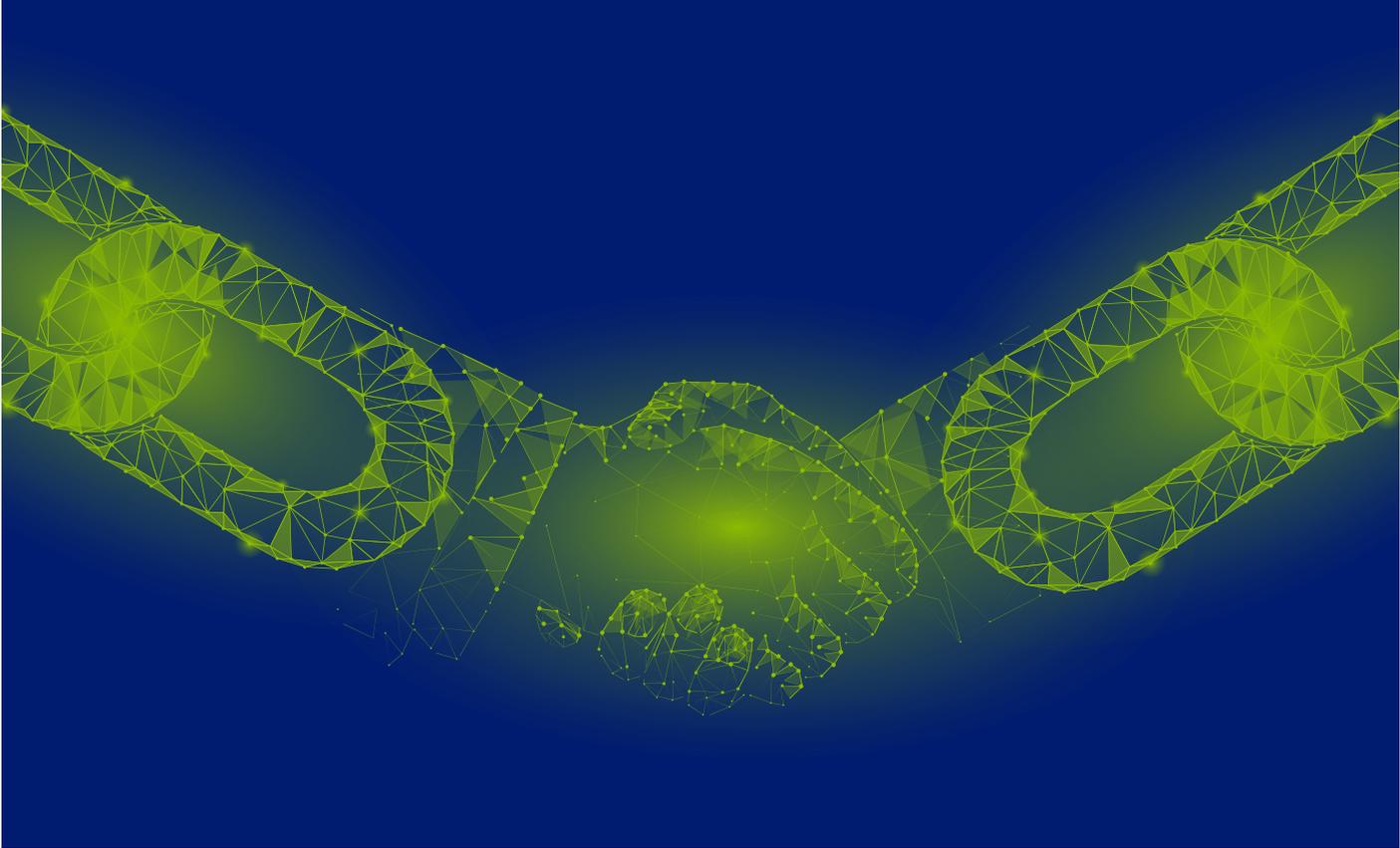
At the start of the pandemic in March, a **COVID19 response group** was set up to respond to urgent requests in support of NHS procurement. **With personal protective equipment (PPE) in short supply, UKUPC members responded with over 150 offers of PPE and equipment,** which was either then directed to the UK government teams or to local NHS Trusts / Boards, as appropriate, with the vast majority being donated. In addition, a team of 13 buyers, mostly with PPE/NHS procurement experience started working with the UK Government's PPE teams to streamline requirements and establish a secure supply chain.

As we moved through the summer, and universities started plan for students returning to campus, we turned to our framework suppliers to ensure that university campuses could

reopen in a COVID19-mitigating way. From hygiene and cleaning products to social distancing materials and signage, we continue to **bring our members resources on which frameworks can best support a COVID19 compliant workplace.** The suppliers on the furniture and furniture reuse frameworks have also provided low or no-cost options to members to furnish employees with suitable desks and chairs for homeworking. With PPE still in high demand, we have developed a **Priority Products framework tool,** enabling members to find suppliers quickly and easily to meet their changing needs. And not forgetting the students, our **Travel category groups have worked to charter flights** to ensure international students can travel to the UK safely, with many scheduled flights cancelled indefinitely.

With the closure of campuses, many catering teams have been impacted severely by the pandemic, however **TUCO have been on hand to offer specialist procurement advice and support** to them through online services and training to ensure that facilities can re-open securely. The specialist knowledge at UKUPC also extends to energy supply, with **TEC reassuring their members that their frameworks do not have minimum usage tolerances,** and offering support to institutions who do not already utilise the TEC energy frameworks.

The members of UKUPC continue to work together to support our members, and as always we encourage you to contact your consortium should you have suggestions for further ways in which we can collaborate.



# UPDATE FROM THE JOINT CONTRACTING GROUP

Like most groups this year the Joint Contracting Group (JCG) has needed to be agile and responsive in dealing with the impact of COVID-19 across our supply chains and institutions. The core activity of the JCG is to oversee the collaborative contracting activity of the purchasing consortia and to deliver the national contracting programme efficiently and on time as well as driving national initiatives to support the sector. The group includes representation from the regional university purchasing consortia, JISC, TEC, TUCO and CPC.

Over the last academic year, the JCG has worked collaboratively on a number of projects. Prior to COVID-19, one of the biggest areas of discussion was Brexit. We identified four main areas of concern for

procurement which were; regulatory, supply chain, labour and commercial. Together we conducted a risk assessment of our suppliers to determine whether the impact of Brexit would be considered high, medium or low risk, leading to the first edition of the Supply Chain Analysis.

Then COVID-19 hit us and we worked together again to gain information from key suppliers related to the risks in the supply chain of the global pandemic. To give more practical support JCG worked on a project to aggregate demand for PPE. We also took the decision to compliantly extend several Frameworks that had been due for renewal. The PPE Framework has been a popular agreement this year with unprecedented demand. Therefore, we have worked together to issue stock updates which are

still going out to all members on a fortnightly basis to support the purchase of critical goods. The consortia all supported NHS activity and a member of each of the teams worked with Cabinet Office (or NHS in Scotland) to assist with the purchase of PPE at this critical time. This has been a fantastic learning experience for all those involved.

Looking forward we have started to consider Brexit once again and prepare ourselves for what lies ahead in 2021. We are reviewing the risk appraisal at Framework level across the consortia to ensure that is up to date. We have jointly reviewed the questions asked of suppliers with the focus still to be on the four key areas. We will be giving suppliers prompts within each of the areas to ensure that we receive more detail on mitigating actions. This information is being collated over the coming weeks to be issued by the end of October by each of the consortia and held securely on websites. We are also looking at the guidance that is required by members. Additionally, support will be offered via training events and webinars to members including working in collaboration with partners such as the HEPA UKUPC L&D group, see below for further details of initial activities.

Recognising the extra financial challenges that our membership faces we have collectively reviewed all our Framework Agreements to identify any additional opportunities available to members and any efficiencies that can be achieved. A report will be issued soon to explain the outcomes. With our goal of aligning the operational processes of the consortia we are reviewing our regional approaches to tender

evaluation in order to identify best practice that we can use to create more commonality. We hope that this will make it easier for suppliers, particularly SMEs, to tender but also for tender working parties / UIGs to be involved in the process as we all have time pressures. We will also be issuing some information on the benefits of participating in tender working parties, encouraging members to work with us; support from both procurement and technical professionals is vital to the success of the agreement.

If you have any questions around the activities of the Joint Contracting Group please contact your local consortium or the Chair of JCG, Helen Dodd-Williams, on [helen.doddwilliams@nwupc.ac.uk](mailto:helen.doddwilliams@nwupc.ac.uk)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## APUC (UK-WIDE EVENTS)

<b>10</b> NOV 2020		<b>Business Finance for Procurement Professionals</b>	09:15 – 12:15	<b>BOOK NOW</b>
<b>24</b> NOV 2020		<b>Business Finance for Procurement Professionals</b>	13:00 – 16:00	<b>BOOK NOW</b>
<b>24</b> NOV 2020		<b>Value for Money Through Cost Price Analysis</b>	09:15 – 12:15	<b>BOOK NOW</b>

## TUCO

<b>18</b> NOV 2020		<b>TUCO Virtual Conference: Managing Disruption and Change in a VUCA World</b>	<b>FREE FOR TUCO FULL MEMBERS</b>	
			10:00 - 16:00 (followed by evening event)	<b>BOOK NOW</b>

## LUPC & SUPC

<b>4</b> NOV 2020		<b>LUPC &amp; SUPC Responsible Procurement Event</b>	LUPC and SUPC are hosting a Responsible Procurement Event for their members including three 45-minute webinars covering the latest in responsible procurement within the sector.	
			10:00 – 12:45	<b>BOOK NOW</b>



**Time to Talk: Brexit and Procurement with Clyde & Co.**

Making sense of Brexit; where are we now for the higher education sector?

If the ongoing UK/EU negotiations are feeling like a dark art, this session will shine some light. By popular demand, the next in HEPA's popular Time to Talk series with international law firm Clyde & Co will focus on Brexit and its practical impact on the higher education sector.

10:00 – 10:30

**BOOK NOW**

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



For support and enquiries, please contact your local consortium

[enquiries@apuc-scot.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@apuc-scot.ac.uk)

[hepcw@wales.ac.uk](mailto:hepcw@wales.ac.uk)

[enquiries@lupc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@lupc.ac.uk)

[admin@neupc.ac.uk](mailto:admin@neupc.ac.uk)

[admin@nwupc.ac.uk](mailto:admin@nwupc.ac.uk)

[supc@reading.ac.uk](mailto:supc@reading.ac.uk)

[enquiries@tec.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@tec.ac.uk)

[info@tuco.ac.uk](mailto:info@tuco.ac.uk)