

Case Study: Adding Value through Coordination, Team Development and Practical Tools at the University of Reading

Who We Worked With

University of Reading, an ambitious university focusing on innovation, pushing academic boundaries and leading social change.

The Situation

The University of Reading is a long-time member of SUPC and its fellow SUMS Group division, SUMS Consulting. During the ongoing difficulties caused by the global Covid

pandemic, the procurement team has drawn on a wide range of membership benefits.

What Happened

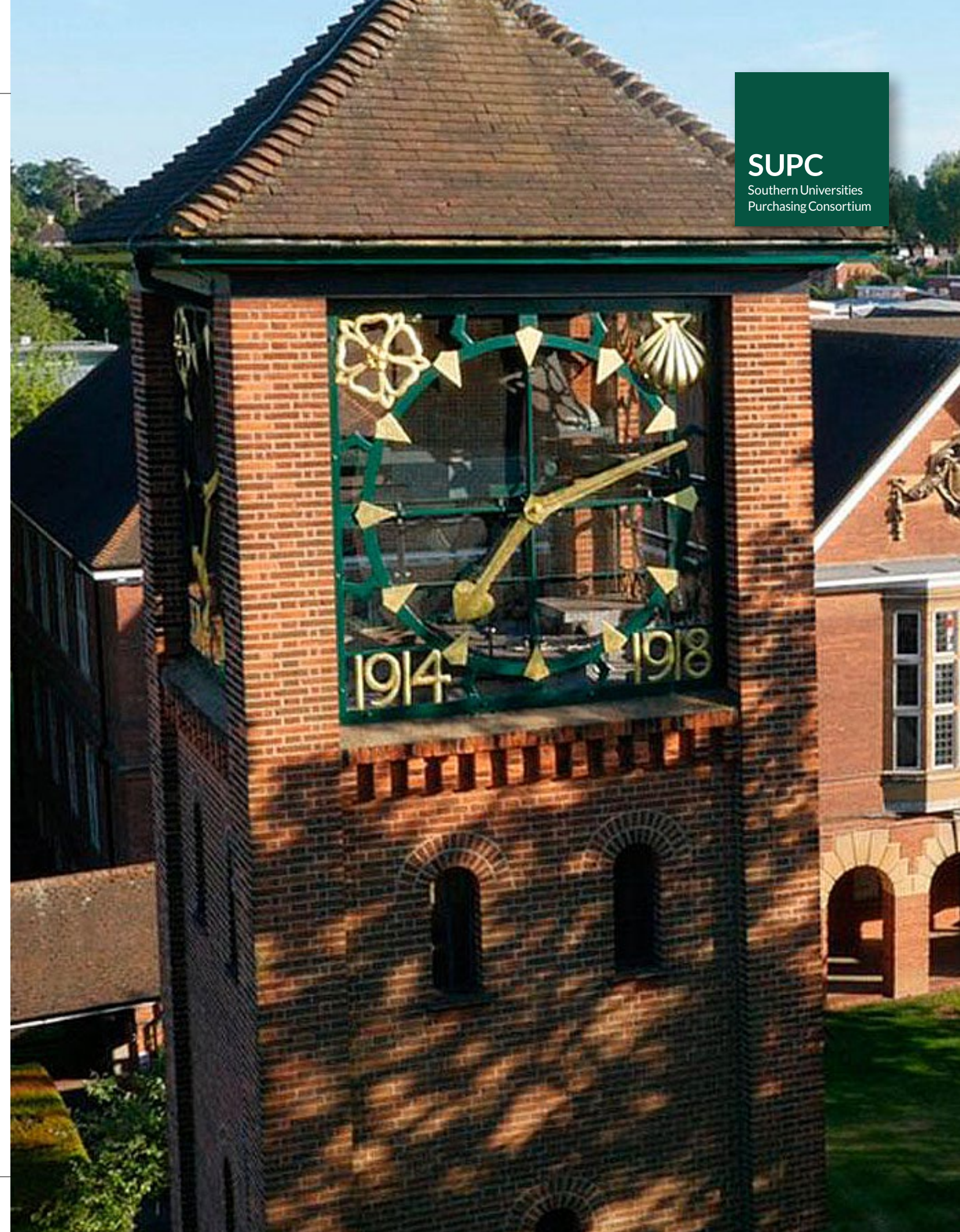
The team has used SUPC's knowledge to help them use the best framework for their situation to deliver greatest value. The SUPC Team's awareness of, and links to, other frameworks providers also meant Reading has been able to select from



LISA JEFFRIES
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SUPC membership is about so much more than just frameworks. From practical toolkits and templates to opportunities for networking and training, there are many benefits for the University. Many of these also apply beyond the procurement team itself, through relevant training for non-specialists and access to SUMS consultancy insight.

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a wider range of options. This has given the team a better starting point for their work, safe in the knowledge of SUPC’s insight into what offers value for money and what is appropriate for Higher Education sector use.

The University’s Director of Procurement and her team have also been able to:

- > Attend networking events and groups which bring like-minded universities together
- > Get involved in tender working groups and develop their knowledge and skills
- > Take part in the online SUPC-LUPC conference, as well as other training courses
- > Make use of the responsible

- procurement toolkit and templates being developed
- > Use the insight from SUMS and SUPC briefing papers to demonstrate the value of procurement activity to internal colleagues.

Where relevant, non-specialists have been involved in meetings and training courses to improve skills across the

whole internal community, for example in contract management.

The Difference it Made

The University’s Category Team have been involved in all aspects of SUPC membership. At a time when training budgets are under ever more pressure, this has been a fantastic way for the team to develop. In 2020/21, Reading used over 60 frameworks available through SUPC membership, achieving over £1m in savings and an ROI through their membership of 1:65.

Involvement in networking and category groups has given them the opportunity to talk through challenges with others who face similar situations. This is beneficial in a varied sector where procurement activity can be approached in different ways.

The procurement team business manager has set up a responsible procurement group internally, with members from across the university. The resources and learning she gains from SUPC are invaluable in the development of the group, membership is having a wide impact.