



UKUPC

UK Universities Purchasing Consortia

UKUPC

Responsible Procurement Strategy

From 2022

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Introduction

Welcome to the UK Universities Purchasing Consortia Responsible Procurement Strategy (UKUPC RP Strategy).

UKUPC is the representative body for UK regional and specialist purchasing consortia. We are working together to ensure that where appropriate, we align our practices and deliver what our members need, when they need it, adding value, 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 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, [here](#).

The Mission of UKUPC is “To leverage the benefits of collaborative procurement: working across the UK HE consortia community to enhance procurement within HE and across our members; helping deliver savings and efficiencies; maximising member benefits; embedding responsible/ethical procurement and social value using a sustainable supply chain management approach.” This will be done using a collaborative approach that will avoid duplication of effort and maximise effectiveness.

UKUPC and its members are committed to working towards achieving all relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs which are covered within the scope of the Objectives are referenced against each one within the Strategic Objectives section below.

Strategy Aim

The Strategic Aim “5” of the above mentioned UKUPC Strategy is to “Embed responsible procurement across our services and support our members to embed it within their institutions, supporting the sector taking a major role in addressing climate change impacts related to our members’ collaborative supply chains.” This RP Strategy document is therefore to set out how this Aim will be delivered across the UKUPC.

Strategic Approach

Work across UKUPC Consortia and their members as appropriate to maximise the value that can be delivered through collaboration in all the key areas of Responsible Procurement.

We will use the Core Competencies as set out in the UKUPC Strategy to help plan and deliver effectively across these key areas.

Strategic Objectives

The table below sets out our Strategic Objectives. Where / as relevant, for each aim we will identify the appropriate measurement / evaluation method, establish baseline(s) against which progress can be measured and then set appropriate targets over short, medium and long terms.

Aim	Success Looks Like	Related to SDGs
We will influence our suppliers to comply with all relevant aspects of the Sustain Supply Chain Code of Conduct (SCCoC)	Agreement to the SCCoC will be required at tendering stage for all relevant framework agreements. Monitoring of performance against the SCCoC will be integrated into contract management processes including where appropriate using supporting tools.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
We will ensure effective procedures are in place to promote and monitor Human Rights and aim for the eradication of slavery and forced labour throughout all influenceable tiers of our supply chains	We will prioritise suppliers across a wide range of human rights impacts areas and implement effective programmes for the appropriate level of assessment with the highest risk suppliers/ supply chains being addressed first. Assessment to include aspects including the embedding of equality & equity practices, modern slavery and forced labour eradication, with resulting action plans being built into contract & supplier management activities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12
We will actively engage with our suppliers to ensure they are taking all reasonable steps to minimise negative impact and maximise improvements in relation to all relevant Environmental factors	Based on a prioritisation approach, we will undertake assessment of existing suppliers' environmental performance including aspects such as management of pollution, contamination, water and other natural resource usage, excess packaging and use of plastics and non-recyclables. Assessment on the same basis will be integrated into tendering activity on a proportionate basis for new requirements / suppliers.	12, 13, 14, 15
We will apply sourcing strategies that maximise Social Value	We will apply specification and lotting (technical and regional) strategies that maximise opportunities and fair access for small and 3 rd sector businesses. Opportunities for Community Benefit realisation will be integrated into tender assessment and contract implementation activity.	3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17
We will deliver a significant focus on assisting our members institutions in addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency	Framework agreements (that enable our member institutions to reduce their GHG emission levels in line with the variable sectoral expectations and targets) will be put in place, including use of net-zero lots and where possible and appropriate, entirely net zero, or as close to net zero as possible, framework agreements.	13, 14, 15
Work with members and other interested parties to maximise the creation and use of Circular Economy Solutions	Opportunities for circular economy solutions will be explored including in Laboratory equipment and consumables, ICT and Furniture categories in collaboration with relevant sectoral professional groups. New Circular Economy enterprises will be established or facilitated by UKUPC consortia where alternative providers do not exist.	4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17
We will actively take steps to reduce the risk of Corruption in our consortia, our members and our supply chains.	Robust practices and controls will be in place via a common UKUPC Anti-Corruption Policy & Process that will make corruption and / or bribery difficult to realise and easy to identify across members use of our agreements, within our consortia and in our supply chains.	16

Operational Plan

The delivery of the above objectives relies on the delivery of a plan(s) that will incorporate the actions required. The plan will be a dynamic document and be updated regularly. The initial plan of activities (in addition to key building blocks set out below) is contained in Annex 1. In delivering the plan, we may partner with other bodies (including but not limited to those noted below) and where this is the case, the aspirations of such partnership should be clear.

Building Blocks

The delivery of the Strategy is established by key early foundation building.

		<i>Timing</i>
Building Blocks	Build the model for a single shared UKUPC Responsible Procurement Team and implement the agreed solution.	Exploration complete Summer 2022 Implementation if and where deemed appropriate to commence from late 2022
	Determine what policies UKUPC should have in place and compile a suite of standard, shared policies wherever appropriate for use across Consortia and where applicable, Member bodies.	Q3/2022 to Q1/2023). Thereafter create & implement.
	Review Responsible Procurement enabling system tools (with key focus on optimised use of data), services and guidance materials for use by both Consortia and their members, and the potential for standardisation and sharing.	Completed March 2023 Implementation based on expiration dates and demand
	Review to include potential use of the sector student body, to contribute to assessment and related activity.	April 2023 to July 2026.

Strategic / Collaboration Partners

UKUPC will work in collaboration with a variety of partners to obtain the best outcome for both the consortia involved and their members. Collaborative partners include:

- EAUC
- Procura+ / ICLEI
- BHRE Research group
- OECD
- HEPA-RPG
- Zero Waste Scotland
- Climate and Procurement Forum (Scotland)
- UK Government Home Office Modern Slavery Unit
- UK Government Cabinet Office
- Scottish Government
- Welsh Government
- Electronics Watch

Update and Review of UKUPC Responsible Procurement Strategy

The strategy will be reviewed August 2023 after the completion of the first year. Thereafter there will be a biannual review, to ensure it continues to address the key and topical areas of focus.

Annex 1 – Provisional Plan - Summer 2022 to End 2023

(note that without further dedicated resources delivery of this plan may be not achievable and so is subject to change)

<i>Initial planned activity</i>	<i>Timing (Quarters refer to Calendar year)</i>	High Level Operational Plan
Explore and agree what detailed outcomes, data and measures are appropriate for measuring success of the objectives of this strategy. (to be developed by the RPN and potential new dedicated resources if available)	From Q3 2022 onwards in line with planned deliverables timing.	
Working in partnership with the Joint Contracting Group, review of tendering documentation in use across UKUPC and implementation of changes to ensure maximum consistency and best practice.	Q3 2022 to Q1 2023	
To have all relevant framework agreements fully embed RP principles and include a Net Zero (or lowest GHG option) option or specific lot.	From Summer 2022	
Explore options for a consistent support model for collaborative procurement professionals across UKUPC.	By End of 2022	
Support the implementation (and development where they do not already exist) and ongoing management and reporting of category / commodity Climate action plans.	From End 2022 then ongoing	
Develop a process to assess category or commodity (as appropriate) opportunities for use of circular economy supply management.	Process to be developed by End 2022	
Climate impact assessment of existing framework suppliers undertaken and changes / options permitted within legislation made during life of existing agreements.	Q4/2022 to Q4/2023	
Supplier Assessment – ensure high level RP assessment of all active collaborative suppliers takes place.	by Q3 2023	
Supplier Assessment – ensure deep-dive RP assessment of highest risk active suppliers takes place.	Assessments to be complete by Q4 2023	
Implement consistent and effective RP focused call-off criteria to all relevant Framework agreements.	By End Q2 2023	
Share and develop key impact area guidance on Responsible Procurement.	Initial development from Q4/2022 to Q4/2023	
Consult with consortia members on responsible procurement needs.	Annually in Q3/Q4 across all UKUPC	