



LUPC & SUPC Conference 2026

Event Agenda | Wednesday 25 March 2026 | 09.00 - 17.00
Followed by Drinks Reception | 17.00 - 18.30

| Timings | Session | Location |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| 07.00-09.00 | Exhibitor Registration and Set Up | Galleria |
| 09.00-10.00 | Delegate Registration, Breakfast and Exhibition | Galleria |
| 10.00-10.15 | Welcome and Introduction | Enterprise Suite |
| 10.15-11.10 | <p>Opening Plenary: Procurement as a catalyst for transformation and sustainable value</p> <p><i>Stephen Day – Chief Procurement Officer, Kantar</i></p> <p>Stephen Day, CPO at AI native Kantar, draws on extensive transformation experience at Kantar, Vodafone, Pearson and HP to show how procurement can shift from tactical cost control to strategic value creation. He will explore the core components of successful transformation, the cultural and operational barriers that often hinder progress, and the critical role of data, leadership and commercial capability in enabling sustainable savings across increasingly complex public sector environments.</p> | Enterprise Suite |
| 11.10-11.15 | <p>A word from our Headline Sponsor: Key Travel</p> <p> KEY TRAVEL</p> | Enterprise Suite |
| 11.15-12.00 | Refreshments & Exhibition | Galleria |
| 12.00-12.45 | Breakout Session 1 (choose one from the following): | |
| 1a | <p>Navigating AI in the Workplace: Internal Realities and External Pressures</p> <p><i>Matt Townsend - Senior AI Specialist at Jisc & Jo McKelvey - Head of Procurement, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew</i></p> <p>A practical conversation about what organisations need to consider when using AI in the workplace - from internal priorities and capability-building to governance, risk, and everything in between, led by Matt Townsend, Senior AI Specialist at Jisc.</p> <p>We'll also look at how AI is showing up in the supplier landscape. Jo McKelvey, Head of Procurement at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, will share her experience of AI generated content in bids, what red flags to watch for, and how to confidently manage and evaluate tenders in this evolving environment.</p> | tbc |
| 1b | <p>The Procurement Act 2023: Legal lessons and practical insights from year one</p> <p><i>Kieran McGaughey – Consultant Solicitor and Procurement Law Trainer</i></p> <p>Kieran McGaughey, leading procurement lawyer and specialist in the</p> | tbc |

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| | | Procurement Act 2023, reflects on the first year of the new regime and what has changed in practice since go-live. Drawing on real-world implementation across the public sector, he will highlight emerging risks, common areas of confusion, and the pressures created by new transparency and process requirements. The session offers clear, pragmatic guidance to help contracting authorities strengthen compliance and adapt confidently to the evolving landscape. | |
| | 1c | <p>Communicating with confidence <i>Renee Rajkumar – Founder, Portal Coaching</i></p> <p>Good communication skills are essential to enhance your effectiveness. This session will help you to develop the confidence and personal skills needed to communicate effectively, strengthen your professional impact and drive better outcomes. Learn about the benefits this brings to you, your team and your organisation.</p> | tbc |
| 12.45-14.00 | Lunch and Exhibition | | |
| 14.00-14.45 | Breakout Session 2 (choose one from the following): | | |
| | 2a | <p>Procurement without borders: cross-sector transformation insights <i>Robin Higgins (Chair) – Director of Procurement, Canterbury Christ Church University, Penny Green - Deputy Director of Finance - Procurement and Commercial, Mike Goodhand – Former Humanitarian Supply Chain – Red Cross</i></p> <p>Join senior procurement leaders from the NHS, charity, and the university sectors for a dynamic conversation exploring successful transformation. Discover transferable best practices, fresh ways of thinking, and lessons to apply within your procurement strategy. This session offers an opportunity to hear from cross-sector panellists and rethink common challenges.</p> | tbc |
| | 2b | <p>Embedding social value in practice <i>Bahar Shahin – Director of Procurement, Queen Mary University of London</i></p> <p>An opportunity to hear about practical approaches to embedding social value within your procurement process from the winner of the "Go Awards" <i>Procurement Team of the Year & Individual of the Year 2025</i>, Queen Mary University of London. With a strong focus on delivering social value through Procurement, they will share examples of integrating social value criteria into tenders, contracts and contract management.</p> | tbc |
| | 2c | <p>From transaction to transformation: mastering strategic Supplier Relationship Management <i>Debbie Metcalfe - Senior Procurement Consultant and Trainer, Achilles Group Limited</i></p> <p>When managed strategically, strong supplier relationships can transform an organisation, creating real advantages by driving value through diversity and dialogue, innovation and collaboration. In this session from Achilles, we will explore the key steps required that will give structure to your supplier interactions: aligning goals, tracking performance, and building long-term trust. Transforming vendors into partners is key to a more resilient, collaborative supply base that supports your organisational evolution. Investing in key partnerships and proficient Contract Management, Supplier Relationship Management is the architect of value.</p> | tbc |
| 14.45-15.45 | Refreshments & Exhibition | | Galleria |
| 15.45-16.45 | <p>Closing Plenary: Finish strong - building resilience and high performance through change <i>Derek Redmond – Former British, European, Commonwealth, World Champion And 2 x Olympian</i></p> <p>Draw inspiration from Olympic athlete Derek Redmond's powerful story of resilience and determination. Learn practical strategies for embracing change, maintaining high performance under pressure, and building personal and organisational resilience. Finish the conference energised with actionable insights for navigating uncertainty and sustaining excellence.</p> | | Enterprise Suite |
| 16.45-17.00 | Wrap-Up and Close of Conference | | Enterprise Suite |
| 17.00-18.30 | Drinks Reception | | Galleria |