

Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC) is a not for profit professional buying organisation and a registered charity owned by the Further Education Sector. CPC exists to facilitate savings and efficiencies while improving value for our Members through the collaborative procurement of goods and services. CPC also delivers a range of procurement support services to its membership.

CPC is committed to facilitating the acquisition of goods and services for its Members in FE, HE, Schools, Academies and similar organisations, without discrimination to others. In so doing, CPC is committed to supporting the Public Contracts Regulations, incorporating the Lord Young Reforms and PPN 03/15.

We understand that to ensure value for money is achieved by our members we need to engage with suppliers of all sizes and make our frameworks more accessible to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). We currently have 558 unique suppliers across 55 EU tendered framework agreements, including a broad range of structures and sizes.

CPC's Commitment to SMEs

CPC recognise that SMEs can offer members greater flexibility, expertise, service and customisation but often have difficulties accessing public sector contracts. CPC is committed to removing the barriers for SMEs to engage with us and with our framework agreements, promoting easier access for small businesses where they have the potential to offer members better value for money.

CPC is committed to reducing the barriers for SME's by:

- Rationalising the requirements of the SQ for all frameworks and ensuring that criteria set does not directly or indirectly disadvantage SMEs.
- Ensuring that requirements are broken down into geographical and product based Lots wherever possible.
- Considering the business needs of the small enterprise and taking them into account when designing the procurement process on a commodity specific basis.
- Pre-engaging with SMEs to ensure they are aware of future opportunities and how to complete tender documents.
- Making opportunities easier to find by making them all accessible on one free of charge online portal.
- Mandating the use of e-tendering to reduce the administrative burden of completing and submitting tender responses.
- Making sure small firms are treated fairly by including prompt payment terms in the conditions of the Framework Agreement.
- Working with members to draw on their supplier base to generate interest in advertised opportunities.

CPC expresses its commitment to better understanding its supply chains and working towards greater transparency and responsibility towards people working on them.

This Statement has been approved and published by CPC and will be reviewed at least once annually.