

Procurement & Commissioning Network
(CPCN)

Your network membership

2022/23

The network offer

The CIPFA Procurement & Commissioning Network (CPCN) has been established for over 20 years. As one of the leading networks available to public sector procurement and commissioning practitioners, it will support you and your organisation with current and future procurement challenges.

CPCN will help you with your daily procurement queries, offer expert practical support to navigate complex and changing procurement regulations, facilitate compliant tendering and keep you up to date with best practice. CPCN also offers a wide range of valuable face-to-face themed events at various regional venues, inter-active webinars as well as our 'Introduction to Essentials' workshops, which can also be delivered on-site or as tailored webinars, at special discounted rates for subscribers.

During a period where the role of procurement and commissioning is expected to change very materially, with a comprehensive overhaul of procurement legislation, the CPCN will ensure that you stay informed and adequately skilled to face the future with confidence.

The CPCN website contains detailed guidance, toolkits, webinar recordings, briefing notes and templates, as well as documentation written to accompany events on topics of current interest, which can be downloaded free of charge by subscribers. Our e-alert service and newsletters, provided to over 120 members, contains all the information and analysis on the latest regulation, policy notes and case law. No other organisation provides such a comprehensive, one-stop shop for everyone involved in public sector procurement and commissioning.

If you would like further information about the benefits of subscribing to the CPCN, please contact [Mohamed Hans](#) who will be delighted to assist you.

How to join?



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Joining the CPCN

If you are interested in joining CPCN or have any questions, please email cipfanetworks@cipfa.org or call CIPFA on 020 7543 5600 and we can provide a quote based on your required level of membership.

What our members say



“I thought the format of the event was brilliant, involving different specialists who all offered 'on the ground', practical advice. I really enjoyed the event and look forward to the next one I can attend. More of this type of event - practical and relevant to current procurement - would be great to see.”

Features and benefits

- Attendance at a wide selection of topical events (workshops, webinars and summit's) using pre-paid places, as well as open training courses for this network
- Technical support and guidance on procurement from expert advisors who can respond to requests from subscribers either by e-mail or phone
- Timely updates on relevant procurement, commercial and legislative issues giving you all the facts and analysis at your fingertips, and information on how these will affect your job role, service delivery and your wider authority agenda
- Opportunities for networking, career development and CPD
- Sharing of knowledge and best practice with peers to create an environment where key procurement and commissioning issues of the day can be debated and addressed
- Exclusive website access – www.cipfa.org/procurement - the website contain a wealth of published information including regular briefings, newsletters and updates, as well as current and past event presentation materials to allow you to engage with colleagues and members in your area and share best practice
- Regular monthly newsletter to keep you updated on the latest procurement issues affecting your area of activity
- Discounts off any CIPFA Essentials training events run by other CIPFA Networks
- Access to other network events when bought under a corporate membership arrangement.

What our members say



For the past couple of years, I have decided to invest in specific training for my procurement team and this commitment is best placed with CIPFA. The training received has been excellent and the diversity of the training available far outweighs that of any other current provider in my opinion. The learning outcomes have certainly improved my team's confidence and productivity which in turn has raised the profile of the team within the authority.

Mark Pearson, Head of Procurement, London Borough of Hounslow

Programme of events

Our planned headline events below are complemented by alerts and briefings, newsletters and dedicated advisor support for practitioners in subscribing organisations. Pre-paid places can be used to attend any events set out in this service plan.

New events may be added during the year and details of these, along with options for use of pre-paid places, will be confirmed as part of the event promotion materials, CPCN newsletters and alerts.



January 2022

Start off on the Right Foot - Developing Effective Specifications

The specification is perhaps the most important document within the tender process, as it sets out an organisation's requirements, however bidders often complain that they cannot fully understand what has been specified.



February 2022

From Start to Finish: Completing Find a Tender Service Notices & Award Decision "Standstill" Notices

Completing Tender Notices is a critical stage in the procurement process. Research however suggests that many Contracting Authorities do not complete notices correctly, which could expose the organisation to immediate legal challenge.



February 2022

Pitfalls in Setting up 'Teckal' Trading Companies, Joint Ventures & Limited Liability Partnerships

Event to support public bodies understand the nuts and bolts in setting up 'Teckal' trading companies, joint ventures and LLP's, as well as an overview of the complex area of subsidy control and competition law.



March 2022

Taking Steps to Reach Net Zero – Implementing Sustainable Procurement

New event to provide a practical action plan to support delivery of net-zero targets and national procurement policy statement.



March & July and November 2022

Introduction to Public Procurement

This introductory event will support new practitioners or those who need a refresher to develop an overview of the role and function of procurement.



April 2022

NEC4: NEC Facilities Management Contracts

This event will cover the new suite of contracts which are specifically developed for the procurement of facilities management services and to help identify best practice in the sector and establish the way forward.



May 2022

How to make Construction Procurements work within the confines of the Public Sector constraints

Different approaches to procuring construction contracts that can help deliver value for money, support net zero targets and achieve a quality outcome.



May 2022

Introduction to Contract Management

This popular event will support organisations and practitioners achieve best value from existing contracts and help drive efficiency savings and delivery of service/ supplies.



June 2022

Assessing the Financial Health and Viability of Suppliers

This event will help practitioners assess commercial viability and financial health of suppliers as part of the SQ stage and ongoing contract management.



July 2022

Managing TUPE and Pensions Pitfalls in Tenders, Insourcing & Setting up Trading Companies

This event will help practitioners understand the often complex and tricky issues relating to TUPE and pensions when involved in tenders, insourcing services, or when setting up new trading companies.



September 2022

Procurement & Contract Audit Summit

Annual event focusing on topical procurement and contract management issues.



October 2022

Settling the Score – Tender Evaluation and Moderation

This event will cover the tricky issue of evaluating tenders and conducting moderation meetings. Evaluating tenders is a critical part of the procurement process. Get it wrong and risk the award decision being set aside.



November 2022

The Price is Right – Are you Using the Correct Pricing Formula in Tenders?

This event will take a detailed look at the mechanics and accuracy of using traditional approaches to evaluating and scoring price in tenders.



December 2022

The wait is over - Implementing the New Public Procurement Regulations

This event will provide comprehensive support to enable implementation of the expected new procurement regulations in the UK from 2023.



January 2023

Designing the New Flexible Procurement Procedure

Ahead of new legislation, this event will help contracting authorities design new flexible procurement procedures.

Full details of these events will be available at www.cipfa.org/events or contact the advisor for further details.

Further support

On-site delivery

Most CPCN events are available for on-site delivery or tailored webinar. Contact Mohamed for further information.

CIPFA Essentials

Our 'Introduction to ...' Essentials programme is designed to help support those who may be new to the sector, or perhaps working in a new role, and may also benefit non-finance staff and elected Members. These interactive workshops are a great way to help develop knowledge and awareness of a specific service area and are proving increasingly popular with staff development programmes.

Specialist support

Our Advisors can act as Independent Chair to moderate complex tender evaluations or provide tailored support for tenders, drafting contract procedure rules or update standards terms and conditions. Please contact Mohamed for further information.

Please contact [Mohamed](#) for further information

Our networks

Looking for more support from our networks?

We offer a number of other networks across a range of topics. We also offer corporate subscriptions for your organisation allowing you and your colleagues to access events and support across multiple CIPFA networks according to your needs.

For any other network enquiries, or for details about our corporate network support package, please contact:

Amie Bridson

Business Manager

amie.bridson@cipfa.org

Our current networks are:

- Alternative Service Delivery Network
- Better Governance Forum
- Benefits and Revenues Service
- Social Care Finance Advisory Network
- Finance Advisory Network
- Insurance Network
- Pensions Network
- Police and Fire Network
- Procurement and Commissioning Network
- Treasury Management Network



77 Mansell Street, London E1 8AN
+44 (0)20 7543 5600

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