



Welcome to the latest news update from Crown Commercial Service (CCS), exclusive for our local government customers. We've rounded up the latest developments here at CCS to help you continue to achieve the best commercial outcomes.



Your local government relationship team:



Nick Caton
WPS Commercial Director



Keith Clements
Customer Delivery Manager



Phillip Hodgson
Customer Delivery Manager

If you need further information about anything in this update please contact your business delivery manager or email

 localgovernment@crowcommercial.gov.uk

You can also follow us on

 @gov_procurement

 Crown Commercial Service

Aggregation matters Have you considered an eAuction?

Our eAuctions drive competition amongst bidders to deliver significant price savings.

As well as regular aggregated eAuctions across several categories, our eAuction team deliver one off eAuctions to conclude individual customer procurements.

Please contact our eAuction team to discuss your specific needs, so we can work together to identify opportunities for your organisation to get involved and make savings.

 eauctions@crowcommercial.gov.uk





Technology aggregation pipeline

Local councils with common purchasing needs can achieve savings through joining together to buy goods and services.

Check out the latest aggregation opportunities available to you:

Product	Ref. No.	Deadline for expression of interest	Invitation to Tender	Planned contract start date
Integrated Telephony	NFC50	24 January 2017	30 January	28 March 2017
Mobile, Voice & data Services	NFC63	16 December 2016	31 January 2017	10 March 2017
Technology Hardware	NFC62	11 January 2017	16 January 2017	28 February 2017
Technology Hardware for Schools	NFC65	10 February 2017	23 February 2017	28 March 2017

Please email aggregation@crownccommercial.gov.uk if you would like to get involved.

Why not go to our aggregation opportunities page. For more information, visit our [aggregation opportunities page](#).

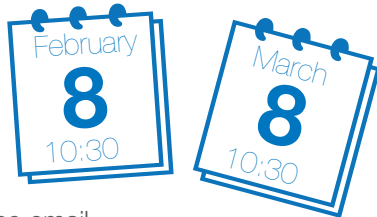
Technology bytes

Network Services are hosting a series of webinars for customers with spend on our legacy frameworks. The webinars will help you understand how to transition to the latest agreement (RM1045).

You can choose to attend one of the following sessions:

8 February - 10:30

8 March - 10:30



To book your place please email networks.services@crownccommercial.gov.uk

The aggregated procurement planned for managed, integrated IP telephony services will be using

Network Services. This is likely to be of interest to customers interested in updating their fixed telephony service into a fully-featured, flexible, state-of-the-art integrated communications facility with operational benefits and substantial savings.

Cyber Security Services 2 will be launching in early February 2017. This second iteration of the Cyber framework contains 3 new schemes, in addition to the Cyber Consultancy services offered under Cyber Security Services1:

- Tailored Assessment (CTAS)
- Incident Response (CIR)
- Penetration Testing (CHECK)

As with Cyber Security Services 1, all suppliers on this framework are certified by the National Cyber Security Council, giving you complete confidence in the security services you buy.

If you have a cyber security requirement, or would like to know more please get in touch at cloud_digital@crownccommercial.gov.uk.

G-Cloud continues to deliver value in supporting digital transformation in the public sector and opportunities for SMEs, with an average of 30% savings being achieved. G-Cloud is available for use by all of the wider public sector, including local government and schools.

To keep up to date on all the latest developments in the Digital Marketplace programme you can sign up to our [blog](#) and follow us on [twitter](#).

Microsoft Licensing Update

Microsoft price increases are due to take effect 1 January 2017. G-Cloud Microsoft prices will remain unchanged until G-Cloud 9 is operational later in 2017.

We'll provide an update in our spring newsletter. If you would like to know more, contact us at cloud_digital@crownccommercial.gov.uk.





Keeping you moving with CCS fleet solutions

Did you know car tax is changing?

On 1 April 2017 new Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) regulations - commonly known as car tax - are coming into force and will impact organisations with cars in their fleet.

So what is changing? Just like the current system, new cars will be divided into 13 bands based on their carbon emissions. This determines how much you pay in the first year of ownership. The amount paid each year after that will depend on the type of fuel the car uses. To find out more, take a look at our car tax changes [fact sheet](#).

Salary Sacrifice Changes

From April 2017, vehicle salary sacrifice schemes will be subject to the same tax as cash income. HMRC unveiled plans to change tax legislation so that where a benefit-in-kind is provided through salary sacrifice, it will be chargeable to income tax and National Insurance.

You can find further information about this change [here](#).

CCS Fleet Customer Forum

The next CCS Fleet Customer Forum will take place on 15 February 2017 and presents an opportunity to meet with fleet managers and procurers across the public sector, understand future trends and opportunities and to learn further about best practice in fleet management. February's session will have a particular focus on damage/accident management in fleet, with industry experts attending to impart some information. An update on key areas following the forum will be detailed in the next newsletter.

New Tyres Framework

This new framework offers you great savings on the supply and fit of tyres and a national supply network. It includes a comprehensive range of tyres with options for supply and fit at your own or supplier premises, plus roadside fitting.

As well as great discounts, you can use your local dealers for delivery and after sales service.

Why not find out if the new tyre agreement is the right fit for your organisation? Visit the [agreement web page](#) or email fleet@crownccommercial.gov.uk for advice and guidance.

Join our next fleet eAuction and save up to 40%

Are you looking to buy new vehicles for your fleet soon? Purchasing new vehicles can be a time consuming and costly exercise but our eAuction service simplifies the process and can help you save up to 40% on manufacturer's retail price (MRP).

There's not long left to sign up to our next fleet eAuction which takes place in February - the deadline for getting involved is 18 January so now is the time to sign up and start saving.

To find out more about the advantages of eAuctions you can [read our brochure](#), and to express your interest in joining the next one email fleet@crownccommercial.gov.uk by 18 January.





Bright ideas for your energy and utility management strategy

The water market is changing – are you prepared?

What is happening with water?

From 3 April 2017, over 1.2 million eligible non-household customers in England will be able to choose their supplier of water and wastewater retail services.

Who will qualify?

Eligible customers are non-household premises that pay business rates. Your water company is responsible for ensuring that eligibility is assessed correctly

We are collaborating with YPO, Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO), North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO), West Mercia Energy and The Energy Consortium to bring to market the largest public sector water framework agreement in the UK.

The framework will include access to water supply, sewerage services and ancillary services associated with water.

How could customers benefit from changing supplier?

- lower bills and better value for money
- better customer service
- more tailored services to suit your business needs
- help to become more water-efficient

What do I need to do to prepare?

You should start to get your site information ready so that you can submit this in a further competition. This should include your Supply Point Identification Number which should appear on your bill. If you are unsure, your current supplier can provide you with this information.

The framework will be live for you to access in April 2017.

To find out more visit:

CCS water web page

<http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/procurement-pipeline/water-and-waste-water>

Open Water Eligibility Guide

<http://www.open-water.org.uk/for-customers/eligibility-guide/>



Utilities management software, metering and ancillary services

We are currently in the process of creating a new agreement for utilities management software, metering and ancillary services to provide you with a solution for full end to end data management services across your utilities portfolio. This agreement is currently expected to go live in September 2017.

The structure of the agreement will be broken down into 4 lots:

1. half hourly electricity meter operator provider (MOP) data collector/ data aggregator (DC/DA) services
2. all other utilities metering services (including sub-metering)
3. utilities management software
4. utilities management bureau services (including bill validation, compliance reporting, budget forecasting, tenant billing, project tracking and analytics)

If you would like more information, or to get involved in shaping the agreement, please visit our [website](#) or contact team on

utilitiesmanagement@crownccommercial.gov.uk





Corporate Solutions

Developed in collaboration with YPO and Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) to create the biggest agreement of its type, the new [Multifunctional Devices, Managed Print and Content Services and Records and Information Management \(RM3781\)](#) agreement covers a wide range of services to help you digitise print, copying, scanning and storage.

From buying multifunctional devices and services to help you manage your print strategy, storage and scanning, to services to help you appraise, select, and sensitivity review your records, and audit and consultancy to help you optimise your print and records management. All lots have now awarded and will be live on the website shortly. In the meantime, please email documentstorageanddevices@crownccommercial.gov.uk for further information.

Journal Subscriptions (Print and Electronic) (RM3797) provides a route to market for local government customers to buy and access journals for business related insight, research and personal development purposes, either in printed and/or electronic formats.

Office Supplies for the Wider Public Sector (RM3703) has been extended until 4 March 2018 to ensure you have a competitive, route to market for the supply and delivery of all your office supplies requirements.

Financial Services – helping your bottom line
Whether you're looking to improve your processes for collecting payments or paying invoices - or indeed both - we have the right solutions to meet your needs. What's more, it needn't be a lengthy process, so if that is holding you back, rest assured we can help you get up and running in a matter of weeks.

ePurchasing Card Solution (RM1095)
Providing free Barclays, Lloyds or RBS, MasterCard and Visa purchasing card solutions for the payment of low value goods and services worldwide. You can benefit from significant savings, such as £28-45 per card on annual card fees and reduce the number of invoices you receive by as much as 45%.



Merchant Acquiring Services, Equipment and Payment Gateway Services (RM3702)

Providing easy access to services and equipment to accept debit cards, credit cards and alternative payment methods directly into designated bank account(s) - online, over the phone or in person. Take payments from businesses and citizens quickly and securely, with a variety of savings such as competitive rates to help reduce the cost of merchant acquiring and payment gateway fees and reduced terminal hire fees.

Fuel Cards and Associated Services (RM1027)

A cheaper and simpler way to pay for vehicle fuel at forecourts throughout Europe. Associated services include car wash, air, tyres and ad-blue for large heavy goods vehicles.

Insurance Services (RM3731)

CCS, YPO, ESPO and NEPO would like to invite you to a free customer insight day in Leicester on 2 March 2017 which will provide you with guidance, knowledge and support on making decisions around insurance service procurement. Spaces are limited. Register here: [Insurance Customer Insight Day](#)

Grants and Programmes Services (RM949)

Our new grants and programmes services framework can help support you in the delivery of successful grant programmes, whether you need more straightforward services such as administrative support and basic grant assessments or a fully managed service for complex grant arrangements.

Corporate Finance Services (RM3719)

This framework can support you if you are thinking of different ways to deliver your services. Whether that's through corporate restructuring or potential sales, purchases or transfers of companies, businesses, assets and debt this framework may be able to help.

Specialist advice and support is also available on the development, financing or procurement of complex projects in the infrastructure sector (including, but not limited to, Public-Private Partnership (PPP), Private Finance Initiative (PFI), Private Finance 2 (PF2), outsourcing or shared services).

For more information about any of these solutions please email financial.services@crownccommercial.gov.uk





Property management

Furniture (RM1501)

Supply Delivery and Installation of Furniture and Associated Services expired on 16 December 2016 and work is underway to develop a replacement agreement.

The expected award date for the new agreement is May 2017.

If you would like to get involved in the procurement by taking part in the evaluation panel please contact us - we would love to hear from you!

Regular updates are available on our [procurement pipeline](#)

Please contact property@crownccommercial.gov.uk if you have any queries

Estates Professional Services (RM928)

We are currently developing a replacement for this framework which is due to expire at the end of March 2017.

The new Estates Professional Services Framework will provide property related professional services suppliers to central government and wider public sector. It will enable them to reduce property costs, release unwanted property assets, identify savings and identify opportunities to generate income from land and buildings. It will deliver the expertise that the public sector needs at the right cost, as well as supporting innovation and simplifying processes.

The old framework has 10 suppliers on one national lot. However, the new framework will contain multiple lots, both national and regional. This will cater for a diverse set of requirements and meet a number of key policy areas, including increasing business with wider public sector and access to government business by SMEs.



Some recent updates from the project:

- the Prior Information Notice was released to the market on 6 October.
- the full business case was endorsed by our Approvals Board & Chief Executive on 8 Dec 2016
- the estates professional services team are concluding an engagement programme that has consisted of conferences and surveys with stakeholders and suppliers, as well as customer one to ones and webinars
- there has been a strong level of interest in the framework with around 80 suppliers registering, including SMEs
- the project timelines have adjusted from those detailed at the conferences, with a forecast invitation to tender date of March 2017 and the current award of framework in June 2017.

If you have any queries, please email property@crownccommercial.gov.uk

Digital Marketplace case studies

The Government Digital Service is looking for case studies on successful use of the Digital Marketplace to find and buy cloud and digital capability.

If you have a story to tell, please fill out this [case study form](#).

Here are some [example success stories](#) from other organisations.

Gemma Phelan, local and wider public sector engagement lead, will be in touch with anyone who fills out their information before anything is published. Please email Gemma if you have any questions gemma.phelan@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk





Useful links

Crown Commercial Service website: www.gov.uk/ccs

Find an agreement: <http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

Find a supplier: <http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/suppliers>

Procurement pipeline: <http://ccs-agreements.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/procurement-pipeline>

Digital Marketplace: <https://www.digitalmarketplace.service.gov.uk/>

CCS Brochures: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ccs-brochures>

CCS Fleet Portal: <https://gpsfleetportal.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

How to keep up to date with CCS



Sign up for email alerts

You can also sign up for immediate, daily or weekly email alerts which will tell you what we have added or updated on the GOV.UK website. It is a great way to stay up to date with the latest news and information from CCS. Simply [sign up for email alerts](#) and provide your email address and select the frequency you wish to receive updates.

Read our monthly CCS customer update

As well as this update dedicated to local government, every month we publish a round up of the latest news, events and training opportunities for all our customers. You can view both the latest issue and back copies [on our website](#).

If you would like to receive a copy of this regular update please send your contact details, including email address, to local.government@crowncommercial.gov.uk

