

Procurement Leadership Group Meeting (Q3)

3rd December 2024

Meeting Actions:

- Sarah to develop on the ideas generated by the business planning exercise
- Register here for our upcoming Integrating ESG in Contracts: Managing Risks and Compliance - Virtual Conference:
<https://learn.supplychainschool.co.uk/local/resourcelib/catalogitem.php?id=8523>

Welcome and Introductions:

Sarah Chatfield and Victoria Hinchcliffe (Vicky) began by welcoming the group. Vicky then talked through the agenda.

Update on Sustainability Verification Proposal:

Ian Heptonstall provided an update on the sustainability verification standard, outlining refinements made since the last discussion, explaining it has been reviewed and refined by the Supply Chain School Board and confirming that ongoing industry engagement will be a priority to ensure the proposal remains relevant and impactful.

The group agreed to support this proposal if there is the correct ambition with it and it will be fit for purpose for small organisations.

Updated Terms of Reference:

Sarah went through the Terms of Reference. The updated Terms of Reference, revised after September's feedback, emphasise collaboration, standardisation, competency building, and stakeholder engagement.

Yasmin then launched a poll, the results of which confirmed that the group approved these updated Terms of Reference.

Business Planning for 2025-26:

The group engaged in discussions around key priorities for business planning, focusing on procurement activities, major challenges, and areas for improvement. Key themes included the need to further embed sustainability into procurement processes, update training resources, and enhance engagement strategies. The group also explored the financial challenges of implementing sustainability initiatives, as well as the legislative requirements impacting procurement and supply chain practices.

Discussions emphasised the importance of providing accessible and varied resources, balancing cost vs. value considerations, and fostering industry-wide collaboration to align sustainability efforts. Suggestions included the development of a clear roadmap for legislative compliance, the introduction of myth-busting initiatives around cost implications, and the creation of case studies to showcase alternative fuel adoption and best practices.

Any Other Business:

- The new Embedding Social Value in Procurement: A Practical Guide for SMEs is now available to view here:

<https://learn.supplychainschool.co.uk/local/resourcelib/catalogitem.php?id=9523>