



Summer Term Updates

Include:

- **BCC Suppliers for schools : Updated**
- **Bitesize procurement : Different lease types**
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- **Minibus Hire for schools : Introducing our new provider**

ACTION FOR SCHOOLS - Utilities for 2021 / 2022

- **Good news for users of our utilities framework!**
- **Utilities 2021/2022**
- **Inspired Energy: First point of call for all things utilities**
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PPE for schools : please visit BCC Schools Notice Board for latest updates : www.birmingham.gov.uk/blog/school-nb

We are now into the summer term and as the current situation continues please be assured, we are here to support you as you stay open for children of key workers and provide home learning to the thousands of pupils working from home.

If you need any support, please contact us on: cps@birmingham.gov.uk

BCC Suppliers list for schools : updated

Why use our contracted suppliers?

By using our contracts you will:

Save Time and Money

- No need to source 3 quotes.
- No need to tender or manage your own contracts.
- Regular reviews of contract and supplier performance.
- Dedicated helpdesk for guidance and support.
- Comprehensive and easy to use systems and processes.
- Cost savings across a wide range of contracts.

Be Prepared

- Our suppliers must adhere to the latest legislation and regulations.
- Newsletters and updates with contract information, funding opportunities, innovation and best practice.
- View and download contract information, guidance and FAQs all in one place.
- Training workshops help to develop the skills and knowledge of your staff.

Be Compliant

- Council values and policies are integrated into the procurement process.
- UK and European Union compliant contracts.
- Fully auditable tender processes.
- Take advantage of BCC Terms and Conditions.

Be Cost Aware

- Achieve value for money through our bulk buying.
- Our contracts are competitively tendered and with you in mind.
- Online e-catalogues make benchmarking easy for stationery.
- Save money via our Health Checks.

Achieve Social Value

- Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility means the money you spend on contracts helps create social value locally and supports delivery of frontline public services - Thank you!

[Download your copy of the latest BCC trusted suppliers list here](#)



Bitesize Procurement : Operating Lease vs Finance Lease What is the difference?

What is an operating lease?

An operating lease is a lease for an asset that the business does not own, commonly found with items such as photocopiers. The school would pay a monthly rent for the photocopier but if it breaks down the school would call the photocopier company who would come out to fix it. At the end of the lease the photocopier company come and collect the photocopier and take it away.

What is a finance lease?

A finance lease (also known as a sales lease or capital lease) is a lease for anything that is not an operating lease, for example a lease on a car. With a finance lease you own the asset at the end of the lease period, however you would also be liable for the cost of repairs during the lease period; the lessor transfers the risk and reward to the school during the lease period and at the end of the lease period the school would usually purchase the asset for a reduced price.

How this relates to procurement

When you are looking to take out either an operating lease or a finance lease you must take into consideration whole life costs, with a finance lease this will extend past the lease period as you will own the asset and you will also need to factor in costs of any potential repairs during the lease period.

With an operating lease please make sure that you examine the lease agreement for any cost for the removal of the asset at the end of the lease period.

Please remember to always follow your schools own financial procedures.

Keeping Compliant during uncertain times

We understand that you may be struggling to purchase certain items at this present time due to demand pressures on suppliers. Please can you ensure that you continue to use BCC contracted suppliers wherever possible so that you remain protected by BCC terms and conditions as well as the favourable pricing.

If you are unable to source essential supplies/ provisions using the contracted providers please remember that you must continue to abide by schools procedures including seeking VFM and ensuring that if you sign any contracts with suppliers that you fully understand and agree to their terms and conditions, and that these decisions are approved by governors where applicable.

Finding a supplier

Requesting quotations through Finditinbirmingham will be much quicker and require less effort than approaching potential suppliers directly. It will also make your supply needs known to a large number of potential suppliers. Better value for money should therefore result.

To search for suppliers or post an opportunity visit www.finditinbirmingham.com. It is free and takes only a couple of minutes to register.

Minibus hire for schools : new contract

We are pleased to announce our new contract for the provision of Minibus hire is available.

Provider : Dawsongroup | bus and coach Limited

Dawsongroup bus and coach is the UK's leading rental, hire and leasing company. Dawsongroup will provide:

- Clean, fit for purpose, and roadworthy vehicles
- Valid MOT Certificate and Vehicle Excise Duty.
- Vehicles will be delivered with a full tank of fuel
- Dawsongroup will deliver and collect vehicles during nominated timeslots agreed with the you.

Please contact the team to discuss your requirements prior to completing the booking form:
Dawsongroup Helpdesk number: 01908 218111 (ask for Bus and Coach Service Delivery Team)

Booking form can be downloaded [here](#)

Completed booking forms should be e-mailed to: busandcoachhiredesk@dawsongroup.co.uk



Good news for users of our utilities framework for 2020/2021

Gas is down 13.8%
Electricity is down 4%



As you are aware BCC moved to the West Mercia Energy utilities framework from 1st April 2019. The suppliers under this framework are Total Gas and Power for both gas and electricity.

Moving providers has proven to be a great success and for the first time, in a long time we are pleased to announce gas prices are down by 13.8% and electricity prices are down by 4% for 2020/2021.

[Find out more here](#)

Utilities for 2021/2022 -Action for schools

Energy purchasing for 2021/2022 will commence in September 2020, we will be writing out to customers regarding the contract from 1st April 2021 in the coming weeks.

If you haven't already taken advantage of our utilities framework and would like to discuss moving suppliers please contact: claire.lewis@birmingham.gov.uk to discuss your options.

Inspired Energy : First point of call for all things utilities

Inspired Energy are appointed by Birmingham City Council as Energy Management Consultants. Their role is to manage the validation of invoices and **all associated queries**. As such, Inspired Energy will be the first point of call for any queries on a day to day basis.

All queries must be raised directly with Inspired Energy within 15 days of receipt of invoice

0208 466 2900 | bcchelpdesk@inspiredenergy.co.uk

Display Energy Certificate (DEC)

Inspired Energy can provide the consumption data required for your school DEC.
Email your request to: bcchelpdesk@inspiredenergy.co.uk

Inspired Energy have identified

£1,472,065

savings across all BCC supplies
- including schools during
April 2019 / March 2020.

Total Gas & Power : Reduce the need for estimated billing?

To minimise the need for estimations and to ensure correct billing, please submit your meterreads regularly.

When should I send my meter reads?

Meter reads can be submitted at any time, but for accurate billing please submit:

Electricity meter reads: between 20th and 28th of each month
Gas meter reads: from 25th to the last day of each month

How do I give you my meter reads?

- 1 - The easiest way to submit meter reads is online by clicking here.
- 2 - You can also do this by calling our Customer Care Team on 0333 003 7874, selecting option 3, then option 1 for gas / option 2 for electricity.
- 3 - Alternatively, email your meter reads to GP.redhill.WME.BirminghamCity@totalgp.com along with your MPAN/MPR and account number.

Useful links:

PORTAL : <https://services.totalgp.com/cas-web/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fservices.totalgp.com%2Fportal%2Flogin>
FAQS: <https://services.totalgp.com/web/tgp/faq/>