

Maximising the benefits of Commercial Card solutions

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90

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24/7

school and council transactions reporting tool

Swansea Council are reaping even greater benefits from their Commercial Card solutions after signing up to the Crown Commercial Service Framework.

Swansea Council have been using Lloyds Bank's Corporate MultiPay solution to provide greater control, accessibility to online purchasing and visibility across spending within schools since 2017.

Efficiency and transparency

To-date, more than 90 schools in the region have signed up to use Corporate MultiPay, making it easier to purchase resources such as books, stationery and equipment online, something which has become increasingly valuable during the Covid-19 pandemic. It has also created significant time efficiencies within schools by cutting down on the admin work related to expense claims.

Commercial Cards Internet Servicing (CCIS) – our online account servicing system – also allows for greater transparency, with all transactions being visible to both the school and council via a reporting tool 24/7.

“I have access to all schools' transactions via CCIS, and that's been incredibly useful,” says Michelle Thomas, Principal Finance Partner Schools, Swansea Council.

“There are strict regulations on what schools are permitted to spend delegated funds on. Visibility on transactions via CCIS enables us to ensure regulations are

being adhered to and we can challenge where appropriate. We have had instances where our schools have been the victims of fraudulent transactions in the past, having the ability to view transactions creates another layer of control as we are able to highlight and investigate unusual transactions at the earliest opportunity.”

Added benefits

Swansea Council renewed their agreement with us for a further three years in 2020, moving onto the Crown Commercial Service Framework, which allows them to reap further benefits from the use of Commercial Cards, including an increased rebate.

“By moving to the new UK wide Crown Commercial Service Framework the council benefits from a number of savings beyond those available under a typical corporate arrangement. For example, it waives some charges like annual card fees for government, charitable or educational bodies, so we were able to issue one scheme with 90 separate entities, and waive those fees, offering a significant saving,” says Ryan Symonds, Client Development Manager, Lloyds Bank.



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MICHELLE THOMAS
Principal Finance Partner Schools,
Swansea Council

"Plus, by signing up to the framework, the council benefited from a pre-negotiated rebate. The Crown Commercial Service Framework is delivered by a number of major banks in addition to ourselves, so the terms are regularly renegotiated and remain highly competitive."

"Procurement cards can save organisations time and money, offer increased financial control and security while strengthening relationships within your supply chain," says Janice Culshaw, Category Lead, Financial Services Category, Crown Commercial Service.

"The Crown Commercial **RM3828** Payment Solutions Framework is a fifth-generation agreement with circa 4,000 public sector customers accessing the benefits. In 2019/20, over £1.8 billion was spent through the agreement and a further £7 million was paid back to the public sector as a rebate over the same period."

"Communication with Lloyds Bank is always great and they are incredibly proactive with regards to the use of these cards," says Michelle. "Whenever there has been a new product or something that could benefit our schools that we would have been unaware of, they have kept us informed and enabled us to reap the benefits."

"Since moving to the Crown Commercial Service Framework with Lloyds Bank we have seen both financial rewards in terms of the rebate and savings schools have been able to make by purchasing online, but also time and process efficiencies in terms of reconciliation."

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