



First Data™



Hertfordshire County Council

HCC Chooses First Data's d.cal Purchasing Card Manager Solution for Their GPC Programme

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is the only Council with responsibility for services across the whole of the county. It works with central government and other local organisations to help improve and deliver a range of local services to more than a million people who live, work and travel in the county.

In 2006 HCC decided to implement purchasing cards to undertake a range of purchasing functions across all directorates. The Council chose the Royal Bank of Scotland as their card provider and First Data's d.cal Purchasing Card Manager (PCM) solution as their back-office system.

Cards are used in three principal ways in the Council:

- By central buyers procuring on behalf of numerous departments
- Embedded cards with preferred suppliers
- Employee cards for day-to-day ad hoc expenditures

PCM provides access to payment transactions via the Internet on a daily basis, enabling cardholders to review their expenditures and managers to approve the spend before the data is loaded into SAP. PCM automatically applies the Council's financial coding structure while giving the flexibility to amend codes where necessary. This end-to-end process has enabled HCC to substantially increase efficiencies in implementing a purchasing card programme.

Since starting their purchasing card programme in May 2006, HCC has issued some 700 cards and is spending over £2 million per annum. Purchasing cards are now an essential payment mechanism for HCC and have made procuring goods and services more convenient.

Objectives

- Efficient payment mechanism for HCC
- One solution used in multiple ways:
 - Central buyer cards
 - Embedded cards with preferred suppliers
 - Individual employee cards
- Interface to SAP

Why d.cal

- Daily online statements
- Default cost coding for every card
- Automated workflow to match SAP requirements
- Customised interface to SAP (daily, weekly or monthly)

Results

- Complete financial transparency on all card transactions
- Timely uploads to SAP for card expenditure
- Staff efficiencies—no manual data entry

"First Data's d.cal Purchasing Card Manager enables all cardholders to see their spend within 24 hours of the transaction taking place and therefore enables the authority to allocate spend easily and efficiently."
Mark Housden, Supplier Manager, Hertfordshire County Council

A Global Leader in Electronic Commerce

First Data powers the global economy by making it easy, fast and secure for people and businesses around the world to buy goods and services using virtually any form of payment. Serving millions of merchant locations and thousands of card issuers, we have the expertise and insight to help you accelerate your business. Put our intelligence to work for you. In October 2007, Deecal International became a part of First Data, bringing the d.cal system into the First Data suite of products.

For more information, contact your First Data Sales Representative or visit firstdata.com.