

1.2 High Level Regional Benefits of GPC Visa

Implementing GPC will provide direct cashable benefits and opportunities for the following areas:

- Greater co-ordination of management information across the region
- Ability to collaborate on further procurements
- Support the VFM indicators in CPA for streamlining procurement processes
- Support BVI for payments to suppliers
- Develop a more strategic and efficient procurement function through a reduction in administration responsibilities.

GPC Visa cards offer a means of purchasing and paying for goods and services without the need to produce requisitions or purchase orders and therefore without needing to process invoices. GPC use Visa as opposed to any another provider due to their wide ranging market use. More specific benefits for the Services are as follows:

- Process savings: it has been calculated that the average savings per transaction of a GPC payment process over a traditional invoice payment process is £28 (NAO figure). For the SWFRS this agreed savings figure is £24 to £28 (see section 7 1.2)
- Greatly reduce administration time and the cost of processing invoices and orders recorded as a cashable saving above.
- Easier to order online, via telephone and fax
- Protect the environment by greatly reducing the use of paper
- Generate invaluable management information about individual procurement activity and purchasing patterns across the region.
- Promote financial transparency and accountability with management information on a daily, weekly and monthly basis
- Creates a full and visible audit trail of all purchases
- More secure than other procurement methods reducing risk and accountability
- Purchase goods and services when needed therefore potential to reduce stock holding
- Faster delivery of goods and services through quicker payments
- Payment tool for on-line ordering
- 14,000 visa enhanced data capable UK supplier outlets to large catchment of supplier opportunities
- Over 830,000 UK Visa acceptable locations
- No issue of petty cash
- Benefit analysis tool, endorsed by OGCbs, available via www.purchasingcard.info
- Offer a range of protection for purchaser and supplier
- Enable organisations to re-deploy staff to more valuable tasks
- Empower employees, giving them responsibility and authority
- Make an important contribution to a range of Government policies on efficiency, modernisation, sustainability, e-commerce and eAuctions
- Ensure rapid payment to suppliers promoting enhanced relationships and improved performance
- Utilise the vast Visa network of merchants and support system
- Are fully endorsed by the Treasury and the National Audit Office
- Suppliers receive guaranteed payment within 4 working days
- Reduces need to establish suppliers on financial system

GPC card holders can qualify for a wide range of discounts with high street retailers for clothing, electrical goods, DIY products etc. as the GPC has been incorporated with the selected Retail Trade Framework Agreement Suppliers www.ogc-buyingsolutions.gov.uk The cash discounts are made at the point of purchase with the buyer and not through rebates. These discounts can be found on the OGCbs website.