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Tender

Chester Diocesan Learning Trust (CDLT) Catering Framework Tender 2026

RPJ3 Group

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-006347

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-060db4

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Scope

Description

The Chester Diocesan Learning Trust are seeking to procure a number of providers for a multi-supplier framework for catering services. The main objective of this procurement exercise is to deliver the procurement of a framework that will enable the Trust to source catering services for its schools.

There are initially 6 schools in this framework, however, other schools may call off later.

It should be noted that it is not mandatory for schools to use this framework. Schools will only call off from this agreement if they have a requirement to do so. It is envisaged the number of contractors on the framework will be between 1 and 3

The provision of the service must demonstrate the best value approach and be flexible in its delivery and operation to ensure that the needs and ethos of individual schools are supported.

This framework process is targeted to have a catering contract in place to commence in August 2026 for the initial direct award schools. Please note that this process covers all catering services within the Trust schools with full tender costings and proposals for the

schools for a contract start in in August 2026 for the initial direct award schools. These details will be further explained in the ITT documents. The process will be through a competitive flexible procedure commencing with a participation stage to create a select bidder list following analysis of a PSQ document (within which the scoring criteria will be included). The nature of the contract demands a good local infrastructure to provide and maintain the level and standard of catering services and support required by the Trust. Labour resource/relief cover is very important. We have set a minimum Employer's (compulsory) liability insurance of 10,000,000 GBP). Following the analysis of PSQ's the selected bidders will be invited to attend site surveys and tender briefing initially planned for early March 2026. Tender response deadline is planned as early April 2026 and it is envisaged that interviews will take place in early May 2026. The contract will be for a 3 +1 +1 period (5 years in total including the option to extend for 1 + 1years after the initial 3 year term).

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £4,000,000 excluding VAT
- £4,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2029
- Possible extension to 31 July 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

The contract is for 3 years with the option to extend for a further 1 +1 years therefore 5

years in total

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 55524000 - School catering services

Contract locations

- UKD6 - Cheshire

Framework

Maximum number of suppliers

3

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Justification for framework term over 4 years

The contract is for 3 years with the option to extend for a further 1 +1 years therefore 5 years in total

Framework operation description

Framework suppliers are selected based on their financial and qualitative submissions and responses to a set brief at the interview/negotiation stage. Any new schools joining the contract will go through a mini tender with the framework bidders ensuring they join on no less favourable terms than the initial schools.

Award method when using the framework

With competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Establishing party only

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

As per the PSQ document

Technical ability conditions of participation

As per the PSQ document

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Submission type

Requests to participate

Deadline for requests to participate

17 February 2026, 12:00am

Submission address and any special instructions

www.mytenders.co.uk

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Suppliers to be invited to tender

5 to 10 suppliers

Selection criteria:

A Procurement Specific Questionnaire is completed by suppliers with the highest scoring suppliers being invited to tender.

Award decision date (estimated)

6 May 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Financial	6/7 financial schedules require completion, providing a fixed price annual cost	Cost	50.00%
Quality	9 qualitative schedules require responding to.	Quality	50.00%

Other information**Conflicts assessment prepared/revised**

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Competitive flexible procedure

Competitive flexible procedure description

The competitive flexible procedure will commence with a participation stage whereby a PSQ will be completed by interested suppliers. This will be scored and successful suppliers will be invited to submit a full tender. The tender submissions will be analysed and scored and selected suppliers will be invited to final interview/presentation stage. The contracting Authority will then select the successful framework supplier/s and award the contract.

Justification for not publishing a preliminary market engagement notice

Time constraints of the procurement process and to ensure a level playing field so no supplier has an unfair advantage or to distort competition.

Documents

Documents to be provided after the tender notice

Tender documents will be emailed out to each successful PSQ bidder

Contracting authority

RPJ3 Group

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PRYY-6263-NQHG

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Wirral

CH46 3SA

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Region: UKD74 - Wirral

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government