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Planning

Greater Manchester Bus Franchising

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-013522

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02bc45

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Tootal Buildings, 56 Oxford Street

Manchester

M1 6EU

Contact

Mr Leigh Fishwick

Email

leigh.fishwick@tfgm.com

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKD3 - Greater Manchester

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Greater Manchester Bus Franchising

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60112000 - Public road transport services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

General

In accordance with the provisions of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Bus Services Act 2017) and having followed the legislative procedure set out within the same, the Mayor of Greater Manchester decided on 25th March 2021 to introduce a bus franchising scheme for the entire Greater Manchester Combined Authority ('GMCA') area. The GMCA will be the contracting entity and the bus franchising scheme will be overseen and managed by Transport for Greater Manchester ('TfGM'), including the procurement of franchise operators, on behalf of the GMCA.

Passport System

TfGM has established a Passport System by which Potential Suppliers can pre-qualify so that they can bid for Greater Manchester Bus Franchises.

Potential Suppliers who wish to apply to become a Passport Holder are required to provide a submission in accordance with the Passport Selection Questionnaire, and should do so with reference to the Passport Process Document which provides further detail on the application process and requirements. These can be found on the Pro-Contract E-Tendering portal (<https://procontract.due-north.com/register>)

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD3 - Greater Manchester

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

General

In accordance with the provisions of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Bus Services Act 2017) and having followed the legislative procedure set out within the same, the Mayor of Greater Manchester decided on 25th March 2021 to introduce a bus franchising scheme for the entire Greater Manchester Combined Authority ('GMCA') area. The GMCA will be the contracting entity and the bus franchising scheme will be overseen and managed by Transport for Greater Manchester ('TfGM'), including the procurement of franchise operators, on behalf of the GMCA.

The Franchise Network and Packaging Strategy

Franchise Network

- The bus network in Greater Manchester comprises circa 2000 buses delivering circa 620 local services and school services which have a PVR of circa 300.
- With a few limited exceptions, all local bus services provided within Greater Manchester will be provided under franchise contracts.

Packaging strategy

- The franchise network will be split into a number of franchises. At the outset of franchising it is anticipated that there will be 10 large franchise packages ('Large Franchises') and 25 small franchise packages ('Small Franchises').
- Large Franchises will have a peak vehicle requirement of a minimum of 34 up to circa 200 buses. In the long-term Large Franchises will have a minimum term of five years, with an option to extend by two years. During transition the maximum term of the Large Franchises, including any extension periods, will be ten years. Small Franchises will typically have a peak vehicle requirement of up to 33 buses and will have a minimum term of three years and a maximum term of five years.
- Bus franchising will be implemented across three tranches (otherwise called Sub-Areas) of

procurement.

Franchise contract dates

The current indicative dates on which a franchise contract may first be entered into for each of the three tranches are:

- Tranche 1 (Sub-Area A) – 30th April 2022
- Tranche 2 (Sub-Area B) – 17th April 2023
- Tranche 3 (Sub-Area C) – 1st April 2024

Franchising Key Principles

The key elements of the commercial approach to franchising in Greater Manchester are summarised below. Further detail can be found in the associated document QSN II.2.4 Supplement - Description of the procurement, which can be found on the Pro-Contract E-Tendering portal (<https://procontract.due-north.com/register>).

Depots: Large Franchises will be operated out of a depot provided by GMCA. For Small Franchises, operators will be required to provide their own depot facilities.

Fleet: operators will be responsible for the provision and maintenance of the majority of the fleet and this includes ownership. However, TfGM will operate a Residual Value (RV) mechanism on behalf of GMCA in respect of the bus fleet to provide a guaranteed residual value at the end of a franchise term.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS): TfGM will procure contracts for the supply and maintenance of some aspects of the required ITS solution (such as vehicle location, ticketing and driver communications systems) to ensure a standardised approach, which would then be made available to franchise operators who would be required to utilise this equipment.

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A Potential Supplier wishing to participate in a particular Greater Manchester Bus Franchise competition must have submitted an application to join the Passport System on or before the relevant date for each Sub-Area, with those dates currently being:

- Sub-Area A: Tuesday 13th July 2021
- Sub-Area B: Friday 13th May 2022
- Sub-Area C: Friday 28th April 2023

Franchise Expression of Interest (Eol)

When TfGM is commencing a particular Franchise competition it will issue a Franchise Eol to all then-current Passport Holders.

Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) / Invitation to Tender (ITT)

The ITN or ITT (as the case may be) will be issued to Passport Holders who have been assessed as having met the requirements to the Franchise Eol.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

13 July 2021

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No