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Contract

Bus Franchising in the Liverpool City Region Tranche 1 Category 1 - St Helens

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

F06: Contract award notice – utilities

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-014464

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04dd3f

Published 17 February 2026, 3:52pm

Section I: Contracting entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

1 Mann Island

Liverpool

L31BP

Contact

Procurement Team

Email

tender@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKD72 - Liverpool

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

I.6) Main activity

Other activity

Public Transport

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Bus Franchising in the Liverpool City Region Tranche 1 Category 1 - St Helens

Reference number

DN772032

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60112000 - Public road transport services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

On 25 April 2023, LCRCA published an Assessment on Bus Franchising in the Liverpool City Region which sets out the proposed bus Franchising Scheme in accordance with the Transport Act.

In October 2023, the Liverpool City Region Mayor made a Franchising Scheme covering the Liverpool City Region. Franchising is to be introduced over a number of tranches of procurement. Franchised contracts will be let in two categories:

- i. Category 1 franchises, which are those Franchise Agreements involving multiple services that will operate from a depot provided by LCRCA. LCRCA will provide the depot from which the services relating to the Category 1 franchise must be operated. LCRCA will predominately provide the fleet that must be used on the Category 1 franchise.
- ii. Category 2 franchises, which are those Franchise Agreements which either i) provide services to serve schools or ii) provide other local services. In both cases the franchises will be delivered from an operator's own depot.

This notice relates to the Category 1 franchise for St Helens.

Key elements of Category 1 franchises include:

Delivery of requirement: the operator of the franchise will be required to provide bus services in accordance with the detailed franchise package specifications.

Revenue risk: the operator will not be required to assume revenue risk. Revenue risk will be primarily taken by LCRCA.

Depots: LCRCA will provide the depots from which the Category 1 franchises will be operated.

Buses: LCRCA will primarily be responsible for providing the vehicles which will operate Category 1 contracts.

Repair, maintenance and servicing of buses: the operator will be responsible for the repair, maintenance and servicing of vehicles whilst ensuring that there are in a roadworthy condition.

Staff: the operator is responsible for ensuring that it has all necessary and suitably trained staff to deliver the requirement detailed in the individual franchise specifications.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £207,144,966

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD7 - Merseyside

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

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II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Price - Weighting: 40

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

Category 1 franchises include options for a) the initial term to be extended for up to two (2) additional years and b) additional services to be introduced as set out in the Franchise Agreements as priced options

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated procedure with prior call for competition

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2025/S 000-004340](#)

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

21 January 2026

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 10

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Ribble Motor Services Limited

One Stockport Exchange, 20 Railway Road

Stockport

SK1 3SW

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD7 - Merseyside

Companies House

03990677

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £207,144,966

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Royal Courts of Justice

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom