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Tender

## Connect to Work

North East Combined Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-015682

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04e851 ([view related notices](#))

Published 16 April 2025, 4:41pm

## Changes to notice

This notice has been edited. The [previous version](#) is still available.

## Scope

## Reference

OPEN 2025424

## Description

A key part of the new Government's mission to kick-start growth is a commitment to building an inclusive and thriving labour market where everyone has the opportunity of good work, and the chance to get on at work. This will improve living standards and ensure funding for vital public services. It is also central to delivering on missions to break down the barriers to opportunity, and to improve the health of the nation.

As part of this mission, the Government has set a long-term ambition to achieve an 80% employment rate. This would place the UK among the highest performing countries in the world, with the equivalent of over two million more people in work.

The recently launched "Get Britain Working" White Paper outlines Government's strategy to invest £240m to support this ambition and help improve workplace health and keep people in work, including trials of combined public services for those out of work due to ill health. The strategy will bring fundamental reform that transforms relationships with local areas and ensures a strong foundation of partnership working to support people into good, sustainable work.

Connect to Work is the first major element of the Get Britain Working Strategy. It will take a collaborative, locally led approach to tackling 'Hidden Unemployment'. It will help connect local work, health and skills support. The funding provides a coherent, systematic and joined up approach to maximise the benefits available for individuals and local communities.

Connect to Work will support the wider development of locally planned systems to drive growth, working jointly with the Government. It will be an important strand in local plans to tackle inactivity and expand employment opportunity. By encouraging join up between health systems and employment support, Connect to Work will support those, primarily, currently outside the workforce and facing greater labour market disadvantages, to stay in work and get back into work. In turn, supporting the Government's ambition for a more inclusive economy, supporting local people to realise their potential and supporting local and national growth.

## Total value (estimated)

- £31,500,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 1 June 2025 to 31 March 2028
- Possible extension to 31 March 2030
- 4 years, 10 months

Description of possible extension:

2.3 The initial term of a Contract for Service is anticipated to start in August 2025 and will run until 31 March 2028. The North East CA may extend that Contract Term for 24 months to 31 March 2030 subject to funding and contract performance.

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 75131000 - Government services
- 79634000 - Career guidance services
- 80521000 - Training programme services

## **Contract locations**

- UKC - North East (England)
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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

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## **Submission**

### **Enquiry deadline**

14 April 2025, 12:00pm

### **Tender submission deadline**

9 May 2025, 5:00pm

### **Submission address and any special instructions**

[www.open-uk.org](http://www.open-uk.org)

Project No: OPEN2025424

**Tenders may be submitted electronically**

Yes

## Languages that may be used for submission

English

## Award decision date (estimated)

1 June 2025

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## Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	80%
Price	Price	20%

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## Other information

## Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

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## Procedure

## **Procedure type**

Open procedure

## **Special regime**

Light touch

## **Reduced tendering period**

Yes

Light touch contract - no minimum

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## **Contracting authority**

### **North East Combined Authority**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJMR-6594-BRGH

The Lumen, St James' Boulevard

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE4 5BZ

United Kingdom

Email: [procurement@northeast-ca.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@northeast-ca.gov.uk)

Region: UKC22 - Tyneside

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government