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Planning

Preliminary Market Engagement Questionnaire - Floating Bridge (Chain Ferry) Cowes / East Cowes

Isle of Wight Council

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-017000

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-065c52

Published 25 February 2026, 3:25pm

Scope

Description

The Isle of Wight Council (the Council) has resolved to replace the current Cowes Floating Bridge 6 chain ferry, which serves the communities of Cowes and East Cowes with a new vessel that meets improved performance standards and reduces the financial subsidy provided from the council to the service.

To help inform how the Council could tender for this project it has resolved to undertake a preliminary market engagement exercise.

This UK2 Notice forms the first stage of that exercise and as such the Council is seeking insight from relevant marine related organisations.

The dates set out to this notice are indicative for a design build phase to commissioning into service - but would be informed by the market.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 30 September 2028
- 2 years, 1 month

Main procurement category

Goods

Additional procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 34500000 - Ships and boats
- 45244000 - Marine construction works
- 50240000 - Repair, maintenance and associated services related to marine and other equipment
- 60610000 - Ferry transport services
- 60640000 - Shipping operations
- 71240000 - Architectural, engineering and planning services
- 71322000 - Engineering design services for the construction of civil engineering works
- 71340000 - Integrated engineering services

Contract locations

- UKJ34 - Isle of Wight

Engagement

Engagement deadline

31 March 2026

Engagement process description

This is an initial engagement process - the Council may conduct further rounds of preliminary market engagement based on findings from initial supplier insight.

Specifically the Council has set out a series of questions which we are seeking insight from the marine supplier market. The questionnaire can be accessed by the below link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/mit9rHfgKz>

The Council has also produced an accompany document that provides more details on the current context and how to engage. If you would like this document please contact

Steve Sandercock (Procurement Consultant)

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Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

31 March 2026

Contracting authority

Isle of Wight Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGYX-7387-YJXG

County Hall

Newport

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Region: UKJ34 - Isle of Wight

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government