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Planning

## **Bus Franchising - Bolton Small Franchise**

Transport for Greater Manchester

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-021867

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0514bf ([view related notices](#))

Published 15 May 2025, 3:34pm

### **Scope**

### **Reference**

DN773100

### **Description**

Following the implementation of bus franchising across Greater Manchester, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), is seeking an Operator to provide bus passenger services for the Bolton Small Franchise from March 2027. Estimated Peak Vehicle Requirements (PVR) for this franchise is 21.

### **Total value (estimated)**

- £38,571,000 excluding VAT
- £46,285,200 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 7 March 2027 to 27 September 2030
- Possible extension to 27 September 2032
- 5 years, 6 months, 21 days

Description of possible extension:

TfGM reserve the right to extend this contract in multiple periods of up to 24 months (total)

### **Main procurement category**

Services

### **CPV classifications**

- 60112000 - Public road transport services

### **Contract locations**

- UKD3 - Greater Manchester

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## **Participation**

### **Particular suitability**

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

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## **Submission**

### **Publication date of tender notice (estimated)**

7 July 2025

### **Submission type**

Requests to participate

### **Deadline for requests to participate**

11 August 2025, 12:00pm

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

Upon publication of the tender notice, Tenders should be submitted via the ProContract procurement portal. Suppliers can register for free using the following link:

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Register>.

Upon registration, suppliers can access the opportunity via the following project reference:  
DN773100

### **Tenders may be submitted electronically**

Yes

## Languages that may be used for submission

English

## Award decision date (estimated)

22 June 2026

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## Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Technical Assessment	The award criteria maybe subject to change as per Section 24 of the Procurement Act 2023.	Quality	60%
Price	The award criteria maybe subject to change as per Section 24 of the Procurement Act 2023.	Price	40%

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## Other information

### Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

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## Procedure

## **Procedure type**

Competitive flexible procedure

## **Special regime**

Utilities

## **Competitive flexible procedure description**

TfGM are seeking to engage with potential suppliers who wish to become a Franchise Operator. Through this procurement process suppliers will be required to provide and pass a Procurement Specific Questionnaire (PSQ) including Conditions of Participation. Any successful Bidders who have successfully passed the PSQ phase will qualify to participate in the subsequent stages of the procurement (the Invitation to Negotiation stage and final tender submission).

Further detail on the proposed award criteria and tender process will be made available through market engagement and subsequently the tender notice and PSQ documentation. However, this may be subject to change during this competitive flexible procedure.

The tender documents will be made available on the Pro-Contract E-Tendering portal (<https://procontract.due-north.com/register>) in July 2025.

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## **Contracting authority**

### **Transport for Greater Manchester**

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNJQ-2746-NWYT

2 Piccadilly Place

Manchester

M1 3BG

United Kingdom

Contact name: Kirk Boulton

Email: [kirk.boulton@tfgm.com](mailto:kirk.boulton@tfgm.com)

Website: <https://www.tfgm.com>

Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government