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Planning

Framework Agreement for Ad-Hoc Minibus & Coach Provision

North Lanarkshire Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-057624

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059ceb

Published 18 September 2025, 11:16am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North Lanarkshire Council

Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street

Motherwell

ML1 1AB

Email

corporateprocurement@northlan.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM84 - North Lanarkshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/>

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00010

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

Framework Agreement for Ad-Hoc Minibus & Coach Provision

Reference number

NLC-CPT-25-077

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60172000 - Hire of buses and coaches with driver

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

North Lanarkshire Council requires the provision of passenger transport services to supplement its existing arrangements managed by Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) for school pupil transport (drop-offs and pickups before and after the school day), and transport for pupils with Additional Support Needs (ASN).

Contractors interested in participating in the opportunity should be able to demonstrate the following:

Proven experience in delivering flexible, on-demand passenger transport services, including school trips and community events.

Commitment to safety, including a strong health and safety record, robust safeguarding practices, and compliance with all relevant transport regulations.

Environmental awareness, with efforts to reduce emissions and adopt sustainable transport practices where possible.

Financial stability, with the ability to deliver services reliably and within agreed budgets.

Appropriate insurance cover, including public liability and employer's liability aligned with the scale and nature of operations.

Interested Contractors should review this Prior Information Notice in full and follow

instructions stated to the Additional Information section to aid the council in developing this requirement.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £2,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60100000 - Road transport services
- 60170000 - Hire of passenger transport vehicles with driver
- 60172000 - Hire of buses and coaches with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM84 - North Lanarkshire

Main site or place of performance

North Lanarkshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

To supplement the Council's internal transport arrangements and fleet, multiple external operators are currently engaged on an ad hoc basis to meet transport requirements for schools and other services.

The Council seeks to streamline the current approach by appointing contractors to deliver required services under a formal agreement. This will improve consistency and ensure compliance with statutory obligations. The Council requires service quality to be maintained at a high level, with punctuality, safety, and accessibility prioritised.

To meet this need, the Council intends to establish a multi-lot, multi-supplier framework arrangement with minibuses and coach companies with a sufficient fleet size to undertake service delivery.

This approach should support a range of transport requirements, including (but not limited to) minibus and coach hire on an ad hoc basis to deliver education curriculum and school outings, integrated day support services etc.

The Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 will require all individuals appointed to either arrangement to hold PVG” membership as a legal requirement for all regulated roles.

Operators must hold a Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Operator’s Licence for carrying passengers for hire or reward.

Drivers need the correct PCV licence and Driver CPC certification.

Vehicles must comply with Construction and Use Regulations and be maintained to DVSA standards

Performance monitoring arrangements will be implemented to ensure ongoing compliance and continuous improvement.

North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) is inviting expressions of interest from suitably qualified contractors to participate in a procurement exercise for a framework agreement to undertaken.

II.2.14) Additional information

The Councils lot structure is still to be determined with this market engagement exercise anticipated to assist with this process.

Interested Contractors should review this Prior Information Notice in full and follow instructions stated to the Additional Information section to aid the council in developing this requirement.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

24 October 2025

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: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The council are conducting a pre-market engagement phase to gather market intelligence and help shape the procurement strategy.

Interested contractors are invited to express their interest by 08 October 2025 by completing the short questionnaire below

The questionnaire can be access here:

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

For reference, interested contractors may have to copy and paste the above link in to their internet browser for it to open. Alternatively interested contractors can access the questionnaire via the QR Code located in the supporting documents of this Prior Information Notice.

The information contained in questionnaire responses will enable the Council to better understand the market and inform the development of the forthcoming procurement exercise.

Responses will not be shared with any other interested party however should the Council proceed with conducting a procurement procedure for the requirements, a consolidated and anonymised summary of responses received within this market exercise may be published with invitation to tender documentation. There is no obligation to answer any or all questions.

Upon receipt of the questionnaires, the Council may, at its discretion, engage in further discussion with any, all, or none of the interested parties.

Note: This PIN is intended to provide early market engagement and does not constitute a formal procurement notice. The final scope of requirements and procurement process will be outlined in future procurement documents.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=810370.

(SC Ref:810370)