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Award

Provision of Local Bus Transport for Students to New College Durham

New College Durham

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-061846

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-05a723

Published 2 October 2025, 3:37pm

Scope

Reference

NCD477

Description

The contracting authority intends to award a contract for the provision of local bus transport services to facilitate the travel of students from all surrounding areas to New College Durham sites within County Durham.

The service must provide:

- Frequent services to accommodate flexible college hours, recognising that students do not always travel within traditional core times. (covering all routes during college hours every 15 minutes)
- Numerous pick-up and drop-off locations across the surrounding areas to ensure accessibility for all students.

- Affordable transport solutions, taking into account the financial pressures on students and families.
 - Modern ticketing options, including the use of a mobile app or travel card, to allow easy access, booking, and monitoring of journeys.
-

Contract 1

Supplier

- Go North East Limited

Contract value

- £1,119,840 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

16 October 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 October 2025 to 26 June 2026
- 8 months, 11 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Single supplier - technical reasons

This contract is being directly awarded without competition under the relevant provisions of the Procurement Act 2023 on the grounds that only Go North East has the operational capability, fleet availability, established network, and route coverage necessary to deliver the required services in full.

Key reasons include:

- **Exclusive Coverage:** Go North East is the sole operator with an existing network of scheduled and supported services covering all surrounding areas of County Durham required for student transport.
- **Operational Readiness:** The provider already operates buses on the required routes and can mobilise immediately without the need for additional infrastructure or licensing.
- **Service Flexibility:** Go North East has the fleet and scheduling capacity to deliver services across a broad range of hours, matching the flexible nature of college timetables.
- **Accessibility:** The operator can provide numerous pick-up and drop-off points to match the college's requirements.
- **Affordable Travel:** Go North East is uniquely positioned to deliver services at affordable student rates through its established fare structures and concessionary schemes.
- **Digital Ticketing:** The provider already offers modern travel solutions including mobile apps and travel cards, which are necessary for student convenience and efficient service management.
- **No Viable Alternative:** Market assessment confirmed that no other local operator can provide comprehensive coverage across the catchment area while meeting the frequency, affordability, and technology requirements.

Supplier

Go North East Limited

- Companies House: 2057284

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTBQ-4849-GVJP

3rd Floor, 41-51 Grey Street

Newcastle

NE1 6EE

United Kingdom

Email: gne.contracts@gonortheast.co.uk

Website: <http://www.gonortheast.co.uk>

Region: UKC22 - Tyneside

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

New College Durham

- Charity Commission (England and Wales): XR6326
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXXW-9561-YPNJ

Framwellgate Moor Campus

Durham

DH1 5ES

United Kingdom

Email: purchasing@newdur.ac.uk

Region: UKC14 - Durham CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government