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Tender

Provision of Passenger Transport Open Framework

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-066682

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05cfb0

Published 20 October 2025, 12:41pm

Scope

Reference

DN794561

Description

Sefton Council are prepared to receive tenders to be included on an Open Framework of contractors, for the provision of hired passenger transport services (bus, mini-bus, coach, taxi and private hire) to Sefton Council and its establishments. The majority of journeys will take place within Sefton, although, on occasions, routes may start in Sefton but travel out of the borough, or visa versa.

Commercial tool

Establishes an open framework

A series of frameworks with substantially the same terms. Awarded suppliers are carried

over and new suppliers can bid.

Total value (estimated)

- £144,000,000 excluding VAT
- £172,800,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030
- Possible extension to 31 December 2033
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

Open Framework minimum duration 4 years, extendable for a further 4 years if there is more than a single provider per lot

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)

Contract locations

- UKD73 - Sefton
-

Lot 1. Vehicles with up to 5 passenger seats

Description

Hired passenger transport services to transport Sefton Travel Support Team Customers, Council employees, or Passenger Assistants in vehicles with up to 5 passenger seats

Lot value (estimated)

- £89,280,000 excluding VAT
- £107,136,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2. Vehicles with 6 to 8 passenger seats (must be a minibus)

Description

Hired passenger transport services to transport TST Customers, Council employees, or

Passenger Assistants in vehicles with 6 to 8 passenger seats (must be a minibus)

Lot value (estimated)

- £24,480,000 excluding VAT
- £29,376,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 3. Vehicles with 9 to 16 passenger seats

Description

Hired passenger transport services to transport TST Customers, Council employees, or Passenger Assistants in vehicles with with 9 to 16 passenger seats

Lot value (estimated)

- £28,800,000 excluding VAT
- £34,560,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 4. Vehicles with 17+ passenger seats

Description

Hired passenger transport services to transport TST Customers, Council employees, or Passenger Assistants in vehicles with with 17+ passenger seats

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,440,000 excluding VAT
- £1,728,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

31 December 2033

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

The Sefton Passenger Transport Open Framework will be active for up to 8 years. This will be subject to compliance with the requirements stated in section 49 of the Procurement Act 2023 in relation to Open Frameworks.

There will be no maximum limit on the number of suppliers that will be allowed onto the Open Framework Agreement. All bidders that pass the selection criteria sections will obtain a place on the Open Framework and will be ranked in accordance with each bidder's price score.

Once established, the Council will re-open the Framework periodically.

The anticipated dates for the re-opening of the Framework are as follows:

March 2026

October 2026

October 2027

October 2028

October 2029

October 2030

Council may re-open the Framework at its sole discretion on additional occasions over the 8 year period of its lifespan, based on operational needs and other factors including, but not limited to;

a) Market changes, such as a reduction in the existing number of Providers on the Open

Framework or the number of existing Providers that are suspended from the Open Framework.

- b) The identified need to secure additional capacity to cater for demand.
- c) The identified need to conduct specific procurement activities to address issues such as Provider failure, Call-Off contract terminations, and/or Contractor withdrawal from Sefton.

On re-opening of the Framework the Council may award the framework to an existing supplier by reference to-

- (a) the fact that the supplier has already been awarded a framework under the scheme,
- (b) a tender relating to an earlier award under the scheme, or
- (c) a tender relating to the current award.

The Council reserves the right to use the Sefton Passenger Transport Open Framework to make contract awards to Providers either with or without conducting further/mini-competitions.

Award method when using the framework

Either with or without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Liverpool City Council

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

St Helens Borough Council

Wirral Council

Halton Borough Council

Merseytravel

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

Contracting authority location restrictions

- UKD71 - East Merseyside
- UKD72 - Liverpool
- UKD73 - Sefton
- UKD74 - Wirral

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Vehicles with up to 5 passenger seats

Lot 2. Vehicles with 6 to 8 passenger seats (must be a minibus)

Lot 3. Vehicles with 9 to 16 passenger seats

Lot 4. Vehicles with 17+ passenger seats

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

7 November 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

14 November 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://procontract.due-north.com/RFx/RFxSummary?rfxId=de13e575-50ab-f011-813a-005056b64545>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

5 December 2025

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 October 2032

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Price	Cost	100%

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

Identified risks which could require changes to the agreement to accommodate are as follows:

1. Possible changes to legislation or policy which affect eligibility for receipt of travel support.
2. Fluctuations in demand for the service resulting from demographic changes and/or the development of alternative methods of achieving the required outcomes for families receiving the Services.
3. Inflationary pressures and the impact of changes to minimum / living wage.
4. Collaboration between neighbouring local authorities who may wish to source services via the Sefton Open Framework or make their sourcing arrangements available.
5. The numbers of parents and carers opting for receipt of Personal Travel Budgets as opposed to receiving Services commissioned by the Council.
6. Changes to official guidance, recognised best practice or unforeseen incidents during the delivery of the Services resulting in changes to the Service Specification, policies, procedures and documentation.

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://procontract.due-north.com/RFx/RFxSummary?rfxId=de13e575-50ab-f011-813a-005056b64545>

Contracting authority

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTHP-5656-DLCN

Bootle Town Hall

Bootle

L20 7AE

United Kingdom

Email: cdp@sefton.gov.uk

Website: <http://sefton.gov.uk>

Region: UKD73 - Sefton

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government