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Planning

North East Franchising Scheme Assessment Independent Audit

North East Combined Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-069117

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05d5a0 ([view related notices](#))

Published 28 October 2025, 4:33pm

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Scope

Reference

OPEN20251872

Description

This opportunity is to enter into Contract(s) for Service with Provider(s) for an Independent Auditor of the North East Combined Authority's (North East CA) Bus Franchising Scheme Assessment.

On 30 July 2024 the North East Mayor Kim McGuinness and Cabinet approved a project to undertake a Franchising Scheme Assessment (FSA) and the Authority is currently preparing an assessment of the proposed bus franchising scheme in accordance with section 123B of the Transport Act 2000 as amended by the Bus Services Act 2017 (the "Act"). The FSA is delivered collaboratively with partners across the region, supported by

specialist consultants, with a cabinet decision on whether to proceed to Audit expected in March 2026.

As part of meeting the requirements of the Act, if a decision is made to proceed to obtaining a report from an [auditor][independent approved person], the Authority will require a suitably qualified organisation (the "Auditor") to undertake an audit of the Assessment and to provide an opinion in relation to the following areas required by section 123D of the Act:

- Whether the information relied on by the Authority in considering the matters referred to in section 123B(3)(d) of the Act (the affordability of the scheme) or section 123B(3)(e) of the Act (the value for money of the proposed scheme) is of sufficient quality;
- Whether the analysis of that information in the Assessment is of sufficient quality; and
- Whether the Authority had due regard to the Guidance issued under section 123B of the Act in preparing the Assessment.

The objective of this project is to deliver an independent audit to the North East CA of the FSA in accordance with relevant requirements of the Act.

Total value (estimated)

- £400,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 30 January 2026 to 30 June 2026
- 5 months, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79212000 - Auditing services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

5 November 2025

Enquiry deadline

4 December 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

19 December 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

All Documentation must be submitted via the Open Platform:

www.open-uk.org

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

30 December 2025

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	70%
Price	Cost	30%

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Documents

Associated tender documents

<http://www.open-uk.org>

Contracting authority

North East Combined Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJMR-6594-BRGH

The Lumen, St James' Boulevard

Newcastle Upon Tyne

NE4 5BZ

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@northeast-ca.gov.uk

Region: UKC22 - Tyneside

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government