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Tender

Training Services for Adults (Open Framework)

Lancashire Combined County Authority

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

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Scope

Reference

DN796031

Description

You are invited to submit an application for inclusion on an Open Framework for the provision of training services for adults.

The Contracting Authority is conducting this procurement under the Procurement Act 2023, following an open tender procedure in accordance with the Light Touch Regime and the publication of the relevant Find a Tender Service (FTS) notice.

The objective is to establish an Open Framework of Training Service Providers from which the Contracting Authority may enter into individual call-off agreements, either through further competition or direct award, as required to support the delivery of its adult skills and education priorities across Lancashire, Blackburn and Blackpool.

The Contracting Authority initially intends to establish three main lots under the Framework, divided into sub-lots as follows:

- Lot 1 Adult Skills Fund

Lot 1A Skills for Life

Lot 1B Skills for Growth

- Lot 2 Skills Bootcamps

Lot 2A Health, Public Services and Care

Lot 2B Engineering and Manufacturing

Lot 2C Construction and the Built Environment

Lot 2D Digital Technology

Lot 2E Transport & Logistics

Lot 2F Creative and Design

Lot 2G Sales, Marketing and Procurement

Lot 2H Pathway to Accelerated Apprenticeships

Lot 2I Other

- Lot 3 Future Funding Training & Skills Provision

There is no limit to the number of Providers that may be appointed to the Framework or to each Lot, provided that each Provider can demonstrate compliance with all requirements as set out in the tender documentation.

Providers may apply for one or more Lots, and there is no maximum number of Lots for which applications may be submitted.

In addition to the Contracting Authority, the Framework will also be available for use by each of the Constituent Authorities; Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Borough Council, and Lancashire County Council, should they have individual requirements that fall within the scope of this Framework.

A full description of the Contracting Authority's requirements is set out in the Service

Specifications for each Lot, which can be found in the tender document appendices B1, B2, and B3.

Providers should note that a place on the Framework does not guarantee the award of any contract for service.

Full details of the requirements are provided within the tender documents.

There is no limit to the number of Providers that may be appointed to the Framework or to each Lot, provided that each Provider can demonstrate compliance with all requirements as set out in the tender documentation.

Providers may apply for one or more Lots, and there is no maximum number of Lots for which applications may be submitted.

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)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 3 March 2026 to 2 March 2029
- Possible extension to 2 March 2034
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

The contracting authority intends to establish an open framework, under the light touch provisions of PA23.

The Framework will operate in accordance with schedule 10 of the Framework Agreement (see tender documents appendix A - Framework Terms and Conditions)

The Contracting Authority intends for the initial framework ("Framework 1") to remain in place for up to 3 years, with a reopening planned for autumn 2029 to establish "Framework 2."

It is anticipated that the framework will be reopened at least once more before its conclusion, thereby establishing "Framework 3." The Contracting Authority reserves the right to reopen the framework as often as necessary to meet service requirements. However, at the time of this publication, it is intended that the framework will be opened at least twice during its duration.

The open framework, including all schemes established under it, is expected to operate for up to 8 years, from 2026 until 2034.

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

This procurement relates to establishment of an open framework, options are as provided for under the call-off requirements. See tender documents for full details.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services

Contract locations

- UKD4 - Lancashire

Lot constraints

Description of how multiple lots may be awarded:

There is no limit to the number of Providers that may be appointed to the Framework or to each Lot, provided that each Provider can demonstrate compliance with all requirements as set out in the tender documentation.

Providers may apply for one or more Lots, and there is no maximum number of Lots for which applications may be submitted.

Lot 1A (was 1). Skills for Life

Description

Adult Skills Fund.

As described within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 1B. Skills for Growth

Description

Adult Skills Fund

As described within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2A. Health, Public Services and Care

Description

Skills Bootcamps: As described within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2B. Engineering and Manufacturing

Description

As described within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2C. Construction and the Build Environment

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Construction and the Build Environment

As described within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2D. Digital Technology

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Digital Technology

As described within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2E. Transport & Logistics

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Transport & Logistics

As described within the tender documents

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2F. Creative and Design

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Creative and Design

As described within the tender documents

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2G. Sales, Marketing and Procurement

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Sales Marketing and Procurement

As described within the tender documents

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2H. Pathway to Accelerated Apprenticeships

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Pathway to Accelerated Apprenticeships

As described in the tender documents

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2I. Other

Description

Skills Bootcamps: Other

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Lot 3. Future Funding Training and Skills Provision

Description

As described in Lot 3 specification, within the tender documents.

Lot value (estimated)

- £180,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

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

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

2 March 2034

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

Following the establishment of the Open Framework, call-off contracts will be entered into based on requirement and demand.

It is anticipated that the process for call off will be principally via further competition (also known as mini-competition).

A further competition is where all Service Providers within the appropriate lot of the Framework will be given the opportunity to submit a proposal for the training requirement. The contract will then be awarded based on suitability of provision.

Pricing will be determined at call-off stage.

All Call-offs from the Framework will be awarded on a spot purchase basis and will remain in place for term specified in the Call Off Order Form (See appendix A) or until terminated in accordance with the terms of the Framework.

As permitted under the Light Touch provisions, the Contracting Authority will determine the most suitable call-off process and will publish the call-off process at the time of requirement. The Contracting Authority may use a single stage process, or where it is deemed necessary may conduct a multi-stage process, and reserves the right to undertake processes which involve shortlisting.

The Contracting Authority may undertake an expression of interest step prior to inviting providers to engage in a further competition stage where it deems it appropriate (for instance where there are a high number of providers on a lot or where it is considered that there may be some more specialised requirements). An expression of interest template shall be issued to all providers on a lot setting out timeline and requirement.

Where an expression of interest stage has taken place, only providers responding to the expression of interest shall be invited to participate in a further competition.

There may be circumstances where the Contracting Authority determines that a direct award to a particular provider is appropriate. Direct awards may be made from this framework in the circumstances defined with the Framework Agreement.

Award method when using the framework

Either with or without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

Lancashire Combined County Authority

Blackburn with Darwen Council

Blackpool Borough Council

Lancashire County Council

Contracting authority location restrictions

- UKD4 - Lancashire

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1A (was 1). Skills for Life

Lot 1B. Skills for Growth

Lot 2A. Health, Public Services and Care

Lot 2B. Engineering and Manufacturing

Lot 2C. Construction and the Build Environment

Lot 2D. Digital Technology

Lot 2E. Transport & Logistics

Lot 2F. Creative and Design

Lot 2G. Sales, Marketing and Procurement

Lot 2H. Pathway to Accelerated Apprenticeships

Lot 2I. Other

Lot 3. Future Funding Training and Skills Provision

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

17 November 2025, 11:59pm

Tender submission deadline

24 November 2025, 11:59pm

Submission address and any special instructions

All tenders must be submitted electronically via The Chest (<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/index.html>).

The tender advert and all documentation can be found on The Chest here:

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

10 February 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	100%

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

The English Devolution White Paper set out the government's vision for simpler local government structures in order to lead to better outcomes for residents, improved local accountability and savings which can then be reinvested in public services. All councils in 2-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities have been invited to develop proposals for unitary local government with the aim of bringing together lower and upper tier local government services in new unitary councils to deliver local government reorganisation. It is likely that within the duration of this contract there may be further development of local government reorganisation that could result in the area and scope of coverage of this contract changing. It is not clear at this stage what the reorganisation will look like. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to modify, review or amend the contract as may become appropriate in order to effectively respond to any future requirements as a result of local government reorganisation.

From time to time there may be external funding authorities, for example the Department for Education, who may provide for new, refreshed or extended skills and training provision / programmes. In the event that such provisions / programmes are released the Contracting Authority reserves that right to modify, review or amend the Framework Agreement, Contracts awarded from the Framework or may re-open the Framework to incorporate any such provision / programme.

The Contract Authority reserves the right to modify any call off contracts or the Framework Agreement where deemed necessary in order to maintain appropriate delivery for service users.

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Lancashire Combined County Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDBL-4228-XTLM

County Hall

Preston

PR1 0LD

United Kingdom

Contact name: Jenna Douthwaite

Email: procurement@lancashire-cca.gov.uk

Website: <https://lancashire-cca.gov.uk/>

Region: UKD45 - Mid Lancashire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government