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Tender

Fleetwood to Knott End Ferry Service

Wyre Borough Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-078588

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05932e ([view related notices](#))

Published 1 December 2025, 3:41pm

Scope

Reference

DN795553

Description

Tenders are being invited from Operators on the basis that the Contract will be for a period of 3 years with the option of a 2-year extension, commencing on 12 April 2026. The successful Operator will enter into a Lease of the Ferry Dock (including buildings) and Knott End slipway defined in the Contract to assist in the performance of the Ferry Service.

The contract is to provide an annual passenger ferry service between Fleetwood and Knott End. The service is classed as Inland waters - Category C - Tidal river, estuary where the significant wave height could not be expected to exceed 1.2m at any time. It is subject to tidal restrictions which may reduce the number of sailings possible. The Service will operate at least once per hour from 7.45am to 5.45pm, subject to tidal and weather restrictions, throughout the summer (Easter Sunday to 31 October) with reduced hours in the Winter months. The Operator may choose to operate additional sailings at any time at his discretion.

The Operator is required to provide a ferry vessel, suitably qualified staff, and to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Service.

The anticipated vessel size would, as a minimum, be registered as a Small Commercial Vessel and certified under the MCA's Code of Practice. The vessel will be registered to operate within Area Category 4 and will carry no more than twelve passengers per journey. Based on current usage, it is estimated that the ferry vessel will carry 30,000 - 40,000 passengers per annum.

The operator will retain all fares including slipway launch fees at Knott End slipway.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,000,000 excluding VAT
- £1,200,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 12 April 2026 to 11 April 2029
- Possible extension to 11 April 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

One extension is available for an additional two years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)

Contract locations

- UKD4 - Lancashire

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

12 January 2026, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

19 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Opportunities/>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

2 March 2026

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 September 2028

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Method Statements	Quality	60%
Management Fee	Price	40%

Other information

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/Opportunities/>

Opportunity is advertised on the ProContract portal and tender documents are available by expressing interest to the opportunity.

Contracting authority

Wyre Borough Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXVT-3374-BYXZ

Civic Centre

Poulton-le-Fylde

FY6 7PU

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@wyre.gov.uk

Region: UKD44 - Lancaster and Wyre

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government