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Tender

North East Franchising Scheme Assessment Independent Audit

North East Combined Authority

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-079553

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

Published 4 December 2025, 8:34am

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)

- £300,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 4 March 2026 to 4 June 2026
- 3 months, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79212000 - Auditing services

Contract locations

- UKC14 - Durham CC
- UKC2 - Northumberland and Tyne and Wear

Participation

Particular suitability

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

Submission

Tender submission deadline

16 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

www.open-uk.org

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

27 February 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	70%
Price	Price	30%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Documents

Associated tender documents

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

www.open-uk.org

Open Reference Number OPEN20251872

Contracting authority

North East Combined Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJMR-6594-BRGH

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Newcastle Upon Tyne

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United Kingdom

Email: procurement@northeast-ca.gov.uk

Region: UKC22 - Tyneside

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government