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Contract

NEPO407 Food & General Provisions

The Association of North East Councils Limited

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-080142

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05efa6

Published 5 December 2025, 1:01pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

The Association of North East Councils Limited

Northern Design Centre

Gateshead

NE83DF

Email

professional.services@nepo.org

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKC22 - Tyneside

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.nepo.org

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

NEPO407 Food & General Provisions

Reference number

NEPO407

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 15000000 - Food, beverages, tobacco and related products

II.1.3) Type of contract

Supplies

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement at the time of conclusion of the contract:

The Association of North East Councils Trading as the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) Framework Contract Award for Food & General Provisions. The Solution will provide for the supply and distribution of food and general provisions to a variety of Contracting Authority establishments on behalf of NEPO Member Authorities and NEPO Associate Members, including but not limited to, schools and other Public-Sector catering premises.

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Duration in months

48

Section IV. Procedure

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Contract award notice concerning this contract

Notice number: [2019/S 195-473642](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

1

Lot No

1

Title

NEPO407 Food & General Provisions

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract/concession award decision:

7 August 2019

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract/concession has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Bestway Wholesale Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

01207120

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Hopwells Limited

Nottingham

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

01404481

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

J Freeman and Sons t/a Freeman Catering Butchers

Newcastle Upon Tyne

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

04285214

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Redbridge Produce and Flowers Limited t/a Total Produce

Spalding

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

03034745

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Brake Bros Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

02035315

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

JR Holland Food Services Limited

Gateshead

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

03031294

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (at the time of conclusion of the contract;excluding VAT)

Total value of the procurement: £480,000,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

NEPO is a Central Purchasing Body as defined in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR15). The agreement will be available for use by all NEPO members. A list of member organisations is available in the About section of the NEPO website www.nepo.org. Lot 1 of this agreement will also be made available to all current and future NEPO associate members throughout all administrative regions of the UK. Lots 2, 3 and 4 of this agreement will be made available to all current and future associate members throughout

the North East Region. Current associate members are listed in the associate member section of the NEPO website at: www.nepo.org/associate-membership/list.

NEPO intends to make the resulting agreement available for use by all contracting authorities (as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) including but not limited to government departments and their agencies, non-departmental public bodies, central government, NHS bodies, local authorities, emergency services, coastguard emergency services, educational establishments, registered social Landlords and registered charities who have a need to purchase the above supplies. Please see the following websites for further details:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies>

<http://www.schoolswebdirectory.co.uk/localauthorities.php>

<http://www.ukschoolsdirectory.net>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-school-in-england>

<https://education.gov.scot/ParentZone>

<http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development>

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/institutions/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/heis/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/fecs/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories/Pages/AcuteTrustListing.aspx>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/structure>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/TheService/organised.aspx>

<http://www.hscni.net/index.php?link=trusts>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/AboutUs/HowWeOrganised.aspx>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/A-ZOfCentralGovernment/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/gov.htm>

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/02/2421/1>

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/contact>

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/list-public-bodies-which-ni-public-procurement-policy-applies>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

<https://www.police.uk/forces/>

<http://www.police-information.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.psnipolice.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

<http://www.fireservice.co.uk/information/ukfrs>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/Police/PoliceServiceofScotland>

<http://www.fire.org.uk/fire-brigades.html>

<http://www.nifrs.org/areas-districts/>

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area.aspx>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-registered-providers-of-social-housing>

<http://directory.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk/pages/default.aspx>

<https://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/publications/registered-social-landlords-in-wales/?lang=en>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/housing-associations>

http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/About_us/Regulation/Registering_charities_index.aspx

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

<https://idea.org.uk/>

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx>

http://www.sell2wales.gov.uk/Search/search_Auth.aspx

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom/factsandfigures/housingplanning1/facts/socialhousing/?id=1822644>

A complete list of permissible users is shown on the NEPO website below:

<https://www.nepo.org/associate-membership/permissible-users>

Further information can be found at: www.nepo.org

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Technology and Construction Court

London

Country

United Kingdom

Section VII: Modifications to the contract/concession

VII.1) Description of the procurement after the modifications

VII.1.1) Main CPV code

- 15000000 - Food, beverages, tobacco and related products

VII.1.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 15000000 - Food, beverages, tobacco and related products

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

The Solution will provide for the supply and distribution of food and general provisions to a variety of Contracting Authority establishments on behalf of NEPO Member Authorities and NEPO Associate Members, including but not limited to, schools and other Public-Sector catering premises.

VII.1.5) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Start date

30 June 2026

End date

31 July 2027

VII.1.6) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£480,000,000

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Bestway Wholesale Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

01207120

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Hopwells Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

01404481

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

J Freeman and Sons t/a Freeman Catering Butchers

Nottingham

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

04285214

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Redbridge Produce and Flowers Limited t/a Total Produce

Gateshead

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

03034745

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Brake Bros Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

02035315

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

JR Holland Food Services Limited

Gateshead

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

Companies House

03031294

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.2) Information about modifications

VII.2.1) Description of the modifications

Nature and extent of the modifications (with indication of possible earlier changes to the contract):

In accordance with regulation 72(1)(b) NEPO have made the decision to extend the arrangement from the existing end date of 30/6/2026 to 31/07/2027 as additional supplies have become necessary, and a change would create substantial duplication of costs and significant inconvenience.

VII.2.2) Reasons for modification

Need for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor/concessionaire.

Description of the economic or technical reasons and the inconvenience or duplication of cost preventing a change of contractor:

The current framework is utilised by North East Contracting Authorities only to supply food and produce in a range of environments, including pre-school, primary and secondary educational establishments, care facilities and Council operated sites.

The variation retains the existing provision and its original scope and safeguards the continuity of service for those Contracting Authorities utilising the solution.

NEPO has undertaken extensive market exploration following the withdrawal of a key supplier to this Framework to identify potential risks and inform its options appraisal. NEPO anticipate that the renewal of this Framework, alongside the wider renewal of all NEPO food solutions will result in a significantly different approach to food procurement for the region, and the future aggregation of requirements is essential to deliver long-term efficiencies and stability in supply. The variation to the term aligns all food Solutions to a concurrent expiry, ensuring future consolidation can be leveraged to achieve long term cost savings for the Public Sector. The variation reduces duplication and resource cost through multiple short-term arrangements, which limit value for money, require significant resource to migrate and implement, incur significant mobilisation costs and present barriers to supply feasibility for the market.

The primary users of the Framework are education establishments, which operate against academic years. To ensure that the Framework provides sufficient protection of supply for users, it is necessary to align the extension to academic years. A shorter term would disrupt term time and would incur significant additional cost and resource for contracting authorities in implementation and operations and would present risk to continuity of pre-planned menus, which consider user requirements and strict allergen control.

The value of the Framework remains unchanged and NEPO do not anticipate that additional supplies require variation of the published value. Notwithstanding, NEPO are satisfied the variation remains consistent with the applicable thresholds set out in Regulation 72(1)(b). The Framework provides no guarantee of any orders or value of goods and Contracting Authorities make no commitment of exclusivity or use.

NEPO is satisfied that the necessary additional supplies are critical to Contracting Authorities operation, and change would create substantial duplication and present a risk to both short term supply and the long-term sustainability of food provision for the Solutions end users.

NEPO intends to begin market engagement on the renewal of this Framework as a priority to ensure that the future iteration addresses the on-going risks to supply, reflects the changing dynamics of the supply market following a period of significant volatility, and adopts a structure which retains value for money while providing greater resilience.

A comprehensive phase of discovery, engagement and assessment will take place in response to the existing challenges. Suppliers will be encouraged to provide feedback on how the renewal could be shaped to encourage participation and achieve greater value for Contracting Authorities.

NEPO anticipates that market engagement will begin in Q1 2026, with an expected future Framework award in Q1 2027 to replace the existing solutions. This timescale will allow the appropriate scoping and options appraisal in the design of the solution as well as an appropriate period for the effective mobilisation of the solution. Interested Suppliers are advised to register at www.open-uk.org to receive future updates on activity.

NEPO intends to notify the market of future activity through the publication of a Pipeline notice in early 2026.

VII.2.3) Increase in price

Updated total contract value before the modifications (taking into account possible earlier contract modifications, price adaptations and average inflation)

Value excluding VAT: £480,000,000

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £480,000,000