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Tender

Rural Bus Franchising Studies

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

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

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Scope

Reference

105915

Description

The key elements and strategic objectives of the Project are:

- Our plans for rural bus franchising pilots are framed in the context of other work that the Combined Authority is already progressing in partnership with our local authority partners.
- A Bus Reform Scoping study, which is taking a high-level view of all bus reform options open to the Combined Authority in order to improve bus services in our area. This scoping work will provide important context for the rural franchising pilots, which will examine franchising options in more detail and with a more defined spatial context.

- A Bus Network Review, which is comparing our current network against a sliding scale of customer expectations in order to identify gaps in provision, many of which will exist in our rural areas.
- A review of our existing Enhanced Partnerships, and the preparation of a new Bus Service Improvement Plan, exploring and maximising what the current bus partnership model can deliver, working hand in hand with bus operators to secure immediate improvements to the bus offer.
- The scope for each of the five pilot studies is therefore to build on these ongoing workstreams and explore the role that bus franchising models can play in delivering better bus services. We strongly believe that the way to do this is:
 - Examining different bus franchising models in the context of particular rural geographies in our Combined Authority area, including the additional opportunities afforded by the new Bus Services Act.
 - Conducting these examinations working hand in hand with local stakeholders that are, or represent, people actually using the bus, or would use the bus if the service better met their needs and using the knowledge and expertise of the local bus operators.
- Producing case studies, templates and best practice guidance for others to benefit from

All tendering documents, including the specification can be found by searching the reference number 105915, on Yortender. Link below:

<https://yortender.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=YORTENDER>

Total value (estimated)

- £450,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 2 March 2026 to 1 March 2027
- 1 year

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 71311200 - Transport systems consultancy services

Contract locations

- UKE2 - North Yorkshire
-

Lot 1. Lot 1: York to Selby Corridor study

Description

This corridor connects two large settlements in our area and benefits from a commercial service along the principal A19 route, which is congested and would benefit from bus priority measures. However, the corridor also includes a number of smaller rural settlements that have a poor or no public transport service, where people are dependent on their cars to get around.

This pilot study will be an excellent test bed for how rural bus franchising can combine a core commercial bus service with supporting feeder services (fixed route and DRT) and bus priority measures to improve bus access and use.

Lot value (estimated)

- £90,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Lot 2. Lot 2: Scarborough Coastal Communities study

Description

Scarborough is one of our larger settlements and has decent bus services to nearby residential areas and settlements. It is also a place where there are significant pockets of deprivation and joblessness, where transport connections are a vital part of improving people's life chances. Scarborough has an extensive rural hinterland that extends along the coast towards Whitby and Filey, and inland towards Pickering, Helmsley, the Vale of Pickering and the Howardian Hills.

These hinterlands are places where employment opportunities are considerable but options to get there by public transport are either poor or absent. This pilot study will focus on how bus franchising models can enable a better level of bus service to address this deprivation, as well as improve general access for residents and visitors to our coastal holiday destinations.

Lot value (estimated)

- £90,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Lot 3. Lot 3: North York Moors National Park study

Description

The National Park is a rural wilderness popular as a place to live, visit, walk and cycle throughout the year, with visitor numbers that grow significantly in the summer months. The National Park has the Esk Valley railway line running along its spine, while most bus services are limited to the main roads. The Moorsbus network provides weekend bus access from May to September, principally for leisure purposes.

This pilot study will explore how bus franchising models can enable greater bus access to this sparsely populated area for residents and visitors. We are keen to explore the Buurtbus principles in this area, where bus operators, community transport and local communities can coalesce to provide an improved service.

Lot value (estimated)

- £90,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Lot 4. Lot 4: Yorkshire Dales National Park study

Description

The Yorkshire Dales National Park is largely a pristine deep rural area with pockets of populations in small towns and villages. It has some bus services including Dalesbus that operates during summer weekends. The National Park is bisected by the Settle to Carlisle Railway, which connects Cumbria, Lancashire, Bradford and Leeds with a rail service that

is often poorly integrated with local bus services. While primarily an area for tourism, agriculture and small businesses, the National Park is also a place where people live and work, often commuting to the surrounding large surrounding conurbations.

This pilot study will therefore examine bus franchising options in a more complex rural environment where several demands on bus services and public transport integration are in play for residents and visitors.

Lot value (estimated)

- £90,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Lot 5. Lot 5: Richmondshire and Northallerton study

Description

This area covers the Vale of York and the rural hinterland between the two national parks, centred around the market town and rail hub at Northallerton. This is a deep rural area where local stakeholders are already fully engaged in developing plans for improving bus access. We will frame this pilot study on picking up on that work, undertaking further community engagement and testing franchising options against a well-developed plan for improved bus access.

Lot value (estimated)

- £90,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

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

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Lot 1: York to Selby Corridor study

Lot 2. Lot 2: Scarborough Coastal Communities study

Lot 3. Lot 3: North York Moors National Park study

Lot 4. Lot 4: Yorkshire Dales National Park study

Lot 5. Lot 5: Richmondshire and Northallerton study

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

12 January 2026, 4:00pm

Tender submission deadline

19 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

All documents are available to download via Yortender. All submissions must be made through the e-tendering system, via the link below:

<https://yortender.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=YORTENDER>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

6 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

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://yortender.eu-supply.com/login.asp?B=YORTENDER>

All documents are available to download via Yortender. All submissions must be made through the e-tendering system.

Contracting authority

York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMGQ-6583-JYGR

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Region: UKE22 - North Yorkshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government