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Tender

SS15 96 DPS - Supported Local Bus (including Kent Karrier) and Home to School Transport Services

Kent County Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-084180

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f8a5

Published 18 December 2025, 10:05am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Kent County Council

Kent County Council | Sessions House, Maidstone

Maidstone

ME14 1XQ

Email

Compliance.publictransport@kent.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3000414141

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ4 - Kent

Internet address(es)

Main address

www.kent.gov.uk

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk/tenders/UK-Maidstone:-Road-transport-services./H36G4TQK44>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk/respond/H36G4TQK44>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

SS15 96 DPS - Supported Local Bus (including Kent Karrier) and Home to School Transport Services

Reference number

SS15 96

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60100000 - Road transport services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Kent County Council (the Council) is the largest county council in England covering an area of 3,500 square kilometres. It has an annual expenditure of over £1.6bn on goods and services and a population of 1.8m. The Council provides a wide range of personal and strategic services on behalf of its residents, operating in partnership with 12 district councils and over 300 parish/town councils.

This requirement is from the Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate is for the provision of services operated using PSV or Community (Section 19 or 22) Bus Permits.

The requirements relate to the Council's activity in respect of Supported Local Bus (including Kent Karrier) and Home to School Transport Services. Supported Bus services are procured for the delivery of socially necessary bus services (including Kent Karrier), where the authority will fund the provision of a local bus service which is not commercially viable, which would therefore not otherwise run but which the authority has identified as meeting a social need i.e. rural connectivity. Home to School Transport services are procured to provide school transport for those pupils who are determined by our Education and Young People's Directorate as eligible for free home to school transport. Where the volume of pupils is sufficient to justify a larger vehicle (minibus, coach or bus) these will require provision of this transport by a Public Service Vehicle Licensed Operator who can run services either as a public bus service or as a privately hired vehicle.

Further details of the full scope and specific requirements will be provided within the

tender documentation issued under this DPS.

Further background and technical information can be found within the tender documentation.

This Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) was established in 2016, with a start date of 01 January 2017. Due to the lack of viable alternatives provided by the Procurement Act 2023 (PA23) and in line with the transition arrangements, the Council is extending the 'Supported Local Bus and Home to School Transport Services' DPS period of validity - in accordance with Regulation 28(1)(a) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 - from 31 December 2027 to 23 February 2029, to ensure continuity of service. All other terms and conditions of the DPS remain unchanged.

This Dynamic Purchasing System has a total value of £100 million, covering the period from its establishment in 2017 through to the end of its period of validity.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £100,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60000000 - Transport services (excl. Waste transport)

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ4 - Kent

Main site or place of performance

Kent

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Council established this DPS to tender a variety of transport requirements as detailed in section II.1.4.

This notice confirms the extension of the "Supported Local Bus (including Kent Karrier)

and Home to School Transport Services" Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) period of validity, as referenced in section II.1.4.

The DPS will remain open until 23 February 2029, in accordance with Regulation 34 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Suppliers may apply at any time during this period, provided they meet and continue to meet the Council's minimum standards as defined in the documents. Successful applicants will have equal standing with existing DPS members, and unsuccessful applicants may reapply at any time. Minimum time limits for tenders under the DPS will be specified in each individual Invitation to Tender (ITT).

Suppliers can access the 'SS15 96 DPS - Supported Local Bus (including Kent Karrier) and Home to School Transport Services Dynamic Purchasing System' by visiting the link mentioned above or the www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £100,000,000

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

Start date

17 December 2025

End date

23 February 2029

This contract is subject to renewal

No

II.2.9) Information about the limits on the number of candidates to be invited

Envisaged minimum number: 1

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.12) Information about electronic catalogues

Tenders must be presented in the form of electronic catalogues or include an electronic catalogue

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

To respond to this opportunity please click here:

<https://www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk/respond/H36G4TQK44>

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with several operators

The procurement involves the setting up of a dynamic purchasing system

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

22 February 2029

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

The contracting authority considers that this contract may be suitable for economic operators that are small or medium enterprises (SMEs). However, any selection of tenderers will be based solely on the criteria set out for the procurement. The contracting authority considers this contract suitable for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

However, the selection of tenderers will be based exclusively on the criteria specified in the tender documentation.

Futher information can be found at www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk or by following the below links.

For more information about this opportunity, please visit the Delta eSourcing portal at:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/tenders/UK-UK-Maidstone:-Road-transport-services./H36G4TQK44>

To respond to this opportunity, please click here:

<https://www.delta-esourcing.com/respond/H36G4TQK44>

GO Reference: GO-20251218-PRO-33813175

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Kent County Council

County Hall

Madistone

ME14 1XQ

Country

United Kingdom