

1819-0130 812 Bus Service

Islington Council invites suitable expressions of interest from suppliers for 1819-0130 812 Bus Service

Current status / Background

The current service provides a local, accessible transport route that is available to all to use, but which has been developed to focus on the needs of older and disabled people who have difficulties accessing mainstream public transport. The service enables users to maintain independent lives by accessing shops, services, day centres and doctor's clinics along the route.

The requirement

The successful service provider will need to operate the route 812 in accordance with the London Service Permit awarded by Transport for London (TfL). Therefore, they will have to have a valid TfL service permit at the time that the contract begins.

The route shall be operated as a hail and ride service to a set timetable with a requirement of two vehicles to provide a 30 – 45 minute service (starting with a 45 min service during the morning peak to ensure timetable reliability, reverting to 30min service after the morning peak period). The service will operate Monday to Friday (except public holidays) from 9.15am to 4.30pm.

The service runs between Hoxton and the Angel along roads such as Bath Street, Packington Street, Tolpuddle Street (for nearby supermarkets), Percy Circus, Skinner Street (for Exmouth Market), Old Street (Golden Lane) and Dufferin Street. For route details see the route description and map attached to the specification in the tender pack.

Vehicle requirements include the use of single decker buses that have low floors and footway facing wheelchair accessible ramps that can be boarded at bus stops or hailed anywhere along the route where it is safe to do so. On-board seating requirements include the provision of at least 1 dedicated wheelchair space, 9 seats and flexible space for shopping trolleys and bags. Vehicle widths are an important consideration of the vehicle requirements as there are several road width restrictions (i.e. 7' 2" on Great Percy Street and Prebend Street) along the bus route that cannot be removed or detoured around. The Mayor of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) requirements is operational from the 8 April 2019. Vehicles need to meet new, tighter exhaust emission standards (ULEX standard), or pay a daily charge to travel within the area of the ULEZ.

Lots

The contract will not be split into lots to ensure continuity of a reliable, customer focused bus service.

TUPE [Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations]

Potential providers must be aware that TUPE may or may not apply to this service. Further details will be available in the invitation to tender.

Contract Period

The contract period will be for 18 months from an estimated start date of 01 October 2019 with two options to extend of up to 12 months each (42 months in total).

Contract Value

The estimated total cost of operating this contract is approximately £700,000 over the maximum 42 month term. This is based on approximately £200,000 per annum. Islington Council will contribute £100,000 per annum for this service contract. The successful applicant will be required to cost the service and meet any funding shortfall by contributing resources and/or external funding to meet the full operating costs.

Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations. MEAT for this contract is quality 50% and cost 50%. Tender submissions will be subject to minimum quality thresholds of 30% or above. Further details will be provided in the invitation to tender.

Cost 50%

Quality 50%

Cost made up of:

Cost of Service (20%)

Provider contribution and external funding generation (30%)

Quality made up of:

Proposed approach to service operation, resilience, reliability and sustainability (20%)

Proposed approach to performance management and customer service (15%)

Proposed approach to monitoring usage and equality (10%)

Proposed approach to health and safety (5%)

Total 100%

Tenderers should be aware that we reserve the right to hold site visits and/or require presentations and/or interviews during the tender process. Site visits and/or presentations and/or interviews will be for verification/clarification purposes of the written submission.

We reserve the right to interview leading bidders.

Procurement Process

This contract will be procured using the Open Procedure. The Open Procedure means that all bidders who successfully express an interest will automatically be invited to tender and have

access to the tender documents. Those who submit a tender and meet the minimum requirements will have their full tender, method statements and pricing evaluated.

How to express an interest?

If you wish to apply for this contract, please follow the steps below:

Register your company free of charge via the link on the right hand side of this page under: 'Related Websites' **London Tenders Portal**.

Register your company free of charge via the **London Tenders Portal**.

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

Await acceptance. You will receive an email confirming your username and password.

Use your username and password to log into the London Tenders Portal and express your interest in 1819-0130 812 Bus Service.

Shortly after you have expressed interest, you will receive a second email containing a link to access the selection questionnaire/tender documents.

Deadlines

The deadline for Questions (expressions of interest) is: Wednesday 7 **August 2019**.

Submission of Tender documents by: **12pm on Monday 12 August 2019**.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

Additional information

- Islington Council and its partners are committed to work towards a 'Fairer Islington', for more information see www.islington.gov.uk.
- Please **do not** include any publicity material with your submissions.
- Islington Council aims to provide equality of opportunity and welcomes applicants who meet the qualitative selection criteria from black and minority ethnic communities and disabled groups.
- The Council encourages all types of organisation who meet the qualitative selection criteria including Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations, Social Enterprises or not for profit enterprises and small to medium enterprises (SME) to tender.
- Your submission will be marked in stages. Only applicants who meet the requirements at each stage will progress to the next stage. Further details will be contained in the tender documents.
- Please include the Contract Number of this tender process when communicating with the Council in any way.

- All questions relating to this contract should be raised via the question and answer section of the relevant contract on the London Tenders Portal. Please do not contact any officer of the council directly.
 - Applicants are advised that all costs incurred either directly or indirectly in preparation, submission or otherwise related to this advertisement will be borne by them, and in no circumstances will the council be responsible for any such costs. Applicants are also advised that the council at its sole discretion acting reasonably and in good faith reserves the right to abandon the procurement at any stage prior to contract award.
 - As part of a commitment to transparency the council is now publishing all spend over £500 each month. This includes spend on contracts, so the successful contractor should expect details of spend against the contract to appear on the council website [Islington Council: Council contracts](#). The council is also committed to publishing tender and contract documentation after contract award stage. Commercially sensitive information will be redacted from documentation. What constitutes commercially sensitive information is a matter for the council's sole discretion. However, tenderers will be invited to identify information they consider to be commercially sensitive in their tender return and this will be taken into account in the council forming a view.
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