

## SPT looks to farm out Subway asset management

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Strathclyde Partnership for Transport has published plans to outsource maintenance of Glasgow's Subway system as part of a move to secure finance for a major upgrade of the network.

The transport authority, which owns and operates the Subway, has invited expressions of interest for an infrastructure asset renewal contract worth up to £25m. It is looking to let a turnkey package covering the coordination, management, resourcing, manufacture, supply, installation and construction required to bring the 10km system, last overhauled between 1977 and 1980, up to modern standards.



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As part of this procurement process, SPT also wants to explore the longer term option of outsourcing a full turnkey maintenance package including overhaul and repairs to all or parts of Subway equipment. Initially bidders will be required to indicate if this is an option that they can provide and set out indicative costs in their tender submission. Potential suppliers will need to consider the implications of TUPE legislation with existing SPT staff expected to transfer to the contractor.

SPT is currently negotiating with the Scottish Government for a £300m package to secure the future of the Subway system. But major capital investment is expected to hinge on reforms to staffing and operational arrangements in order to cut running costs.

Work on the asset renewal contract is expected to take three to four years and get

underway by January 2013. Track bed support and rail upgrades are set to each account for 35% of the work required. Tunnel lining improvements, drainage systems and depot works are each likely to account for around 10% of the scope.

SPT intends to appoint a single main contractor to deliver the upgrade. Expressions of interest are due in by 5 April 2012.



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