# South East Consortium awards £1 billion retrofit framework to mix of national and regional contractors



Ten contractors have secured places on a £1 billion retrofit and decarbonisation framework launched by the South East Consortium (SEC), a procurement body serving public sector organisations and housing providers in London and the South East. The four-year Decarbonisation Partnerships Framework aims to streamline the appointment of contractors to manage and deliver a broad spectrum of carbon reduction works, supporting the UK’s net-zero ambitions.

The framework was procured through an open procedure that attracted 29 bids, including 15 from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is structured as a single lot, with awards made to a blend of national and regional firms to provide clients with a balance of “ease, options and value,” according to the contract notice. The selected contractors include notable players such as Equans Regeneration, Morgan Sindall Property Services, and Wates Property Services, alongside smaller firms like Amber Construction Services, A&E Elkins, Cardo (South), Eco Approach, Fortem Solutions, Bell Group, and UI Social Infrastructure.

The framework covers an extensive range of decarbonisation activities expected to encompass retrofit insulation, heating system upgrades, and supporting services crucial for delivering large-scale energy efficiency initiatives. Contractors will be responsible not only for the physical delivery of energy reduction measures but also for partnering with public sector bodies to manage projects from inception to completion. The selection criteria weighted quality at 70 percent and price at 30 percent, reflecting the emphasis on value alongside performance. The £1 billion estimated value represents the maximum potential spend over the duration of the agreement, excluding VAT.

SEC Procurement Limited operates as a central purchasing body whose membership spans housing associations and local authorities throughout the South East. This framework complements other SEC initiatives, including the Decarbonisation Works Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), which remains open until 2029 and facilitates the appointment of contractors for individual measures as well as whole-house retrofit projects. While the Partnership Framework is structured as a single lot, the DPS features four lots that allow for greater flexibility, addressing both individual energy efficiency upgrades and comprehensive retrofits tailored to housing sector needs.

Amber Construction Services, one of the awarded contractors, highlights that their involvement includes works such as external wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, and the installation of solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. This aligns closely with the framework’s objective to accelerate the retrofit and decarbonisation programmes essential for meeting regulatory requirements and sustainability targets.

In addition to this £1 billion framework, the South East Consortium has recently awarded places on a separate £740 million housing upgrade framework, which is divided into four lots based on contract value. This arrangement allows for a diverse spread of contractors from SMEs to major national providers and reflects the growing scale and complexity of retrofit and housing improvement projects in the region.

Together, these frameworks and procurement vehicles underscore the commitment of regional public bodies and housing providers to meeting the UK’s ambitious climate goals by improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions across existing housing stock. By securing a mix of national and regional contractors through a robust procurement process, the South East Consortium is positioning itself as a pivotal player in driving retrofit and decarbonisation efforts in one of the UK’s most populated and energy-intensive regions.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[2]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[5]](https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/were-out-to-tender-for-our-decarbonisation-partnerships-framework/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[2]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[4]](https://www.amberconstruction.com/services/our-frameworks/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[2]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[6]](https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/our-frameworks/decarbonisation/zero-carbon-solutions/delivery-partners)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.amberconstruction.com/services/our-frameworks/), [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[3]](https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/our-frameworks/decarbonisation/decarbonisation-works/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[7]](https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2023/10/26/740m-south-east-consortium-housing-upgrade-winners/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[2]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/), [[3]](https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/our-frameworks/decarbonisation/decarbonisation-works/), [[5]](https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/were-out-to-tender-for-our-decarbonisation-partnerships-framework/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/contracts/ten-contractors-win-spots-on-1bn-decarbonisation-framework-06-10-2025/> - Ten firms have secured places on a £1bn retrofit and decarbonisation framework launched by procurement body South East Consortium (SEC). The four-year Decarbonisation Partnerships Framework will allow public sector bodies and housing providers in London and the South East to appoint contractors to manage and deliver carbon reduction works. The framework was procured through an open procedure and attracted 29 bids, including 15 from small and medium-sized enterprises. It is structured as a single lot, with awards made to a mix of national and regional firms. Equans, Morgan Sindall and Wates were among the successful bidders. According to the contract notice, the framework is intended to provide clients with 'ease, options and value' and covers a wide range of decarbonisation activities. These are expected to include retrofit insulation, heating upgrades, and supporting services aligned with the UK’s net-zero ambitions. Firms were selected on the basis of 70 per cent quality and 30 per cent price. The estimated value of £1bn excludes VAT and reflects the maximum potential spend over the duration of the agreement. SEC Procurement Limited, which trades as South East Consortium, is a central purchasing body whose members include housing associations and local authorities across the region.
3. <https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/our-frameworks/decarbonisation/decarbonisation-works/> - The Decarbonisation Works Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) connects clients to experienced contractors capable of delivering individual measures as well as whole-house retrofits. The DPS is open until February 2029 and provides a compliant route to appoint contractors experienced in delivering projects for the housing sector. It is structured into four lots covering the delivery of individual measures and whole-house retrofit works, designed to sit alongside the Decarbonisation Partnerships Framework.
4. <https://www.amberconstruction.com/services/our-frameworks/> - Amber Construction Services Ltd has secured high-ranked positions in several frameworks, including the South East Consortium Framework. This framework covers various works, such as internal and external works, decarbonisation works, and fire safety works. Specific lots within the decarbonisation works include external wall insulation, loft and cavity wall insulation, and installation of solar thermal and PV systems.
5. <https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/were-out-to-tender-for-our-decarbonisation-partnerships-framework/> - South East Consortium is out to tender for its new Decarbonisation Partnerships Framework, with the tender deadline on 30 April 2025 and an expected go-live date in September 2025. The framework is designed to help customers accelerate their sustainability and retrofit programmes, providing a compliant route to appoint experienced contractors to deliver large decarbonisation projects. Suppliers will manage the delivery of a range of energy efficiency measures and act as a partner for delivering decarbonisation solutions from start to finish.
6. <https://southeastconsortium.org.uk/our-frameworks/decarbonisation/zero-carbon-solutions/delivery-partners> - The Zero Carbon Solutions Framework covers the provision of partnering services, designed to provide customers with a 'one-stop shop' for either an individual or multiple zero-carbon solutions. Suppliers on this framework include Equans, Axis, Wates Property Services, United Living, and Cardo. Customers can direct award to the top-ranked supplier on this lot, provided their requirement is within the scope of the framework.
7. <https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2023/10/26/740m-south-east-consortium-housing-upgrade-winners/> - The South East Consortium has awarded places to contractors on a £740m housing upgrade framework. The framework is divided into four lots based on contract value, providing a range of contractors from SMEs to national providers. Works with an annual value over £5m include Equans Regeneration, Breyer Group, Vinci Facilities, Mulalley and Company, Wates Living Space, A & E Elkins, Durkan, Cablesheer Construction, and TSG Building Services.