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Tender

## **CO0044 SELEP COVID-19 Business Support Funding**

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-000120

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0287be

Published 5 January 2021, 2:00pm

### **Section I: Contracting authority**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Hall, Market Road

CHELMSFORD

CM1 1QH

#### **Contact**

Andrew Beaver

#### **Email**

[andrew.beaver@essex.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.beaver@essex.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 3330136253

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UKH3 - Essex

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

**I.3) Communication**

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

[www.proactisplaza.com](http://www.proactisplaza.com)

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

[www.proactisplaza.com](http://www.proactisplaza.com)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Regional or local authority

**I.5) Main activity**

General public services

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

CO0044 SELEP COVID-19 Business Support Funding

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

Essex County Council is managing this procurement process on behalf of SELEP. It is proposed that a framework will be established to allow access for SELEP, and those public sector organisations associated with SELEP, to the services being provided. Ordering and payment processes will be established at the commencement of this agreement.

The SELEP area includes East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock with Essex County Council acting as the Accountable Body for SELEP.

The key outcome of this tender is to ensure a co-ordinated, effective response to COVID-19. As such, we are seeking organisations that can support us through the delivery of services as set out in the Lots below. Interested Bidders are required to highlight which Lot(s) of work they are bidding for and is clearly marked when completing the Bidder questionnaire.

Lot 1: Supporting pre-starts and start ups - The programme must provide structured and set-hour 1-2-1 and 1-2-many support to cohorts of pre-starts and start-ups that have the potential to operate during and/or beyond a COVID-19 climate. The programme shall include provision of learning, advice and mentoring to an audience that includes those made redundant or unemployed as a result of COVID-19.

Lot 2: Digitising Business, supporting e-commerce and retail - The programme must provide a programme of webinars, 1-2-1 and 1-2-many advice and diagnostics to businesses looking to adapt and innovate through digitisation in order to remain viable during and/or beyond a COVID-19 climate. The programme will help businesses to build online presence and competitiveness/ marketing, rebuild supply chains, improve

productivity, implement flexible working and/or new/hybrid business models, and employ tools to aid mental wellbeing.

Lot 3: Supporting the Visitor Economy - Provision of a 100% grant scheme with a grant range of £1,000 - £3,000 for visitor economy businesses for the purchasing of tools, equipment and trading approaches needed to adapt or innovate, and facilitating a COVID-19 secure environment and the provision of a programme of support and training that will bring together and facilitate multiple businesses and organisations to curate a place-based offer, to increase visitor footfall and spend and regenerate the area.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £3,000,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 2

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Supporting pre-starts and start ups

Lot No

1

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79410000 - Business and management consultancy services

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex
- UKJ2 - Surrey, East and West Sussex
- UKJ4 - Kent

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Activity:

The programme must provide structured and set-hour 1-2-1 and 1-2-many support to cohorts of pre-starts and start-ups that have the potential to operate during and/or beyond a COVID-19 climate.

The programme shall include provision of learning, advice and mentoring to an audience that includes those made redundant or unemployed as a result of COVID-19.

The programme must include a small 100% grant scheme with a grant range of £500 - £2,000, available to businesses accessing sufficient learning, advice and mentoring through the programme.

The programme should look to apply learning from similar programmes, such as target audience, key sectors and up-take demographics.

Outcomes:

Minimum of 100 businesses created or safeguarded

Evaluation of the programme to measure impact and identify changes to ways of working and behaviours brought about by the process of adapting to the impacts of COVID-19.

Skills and experience:

Bidders will need to demonstrate through their bids that they have the skills and experience required to run the programme competently and successfully.

Experience of working with and the ability to provide support to start-up businesses and new enterprises is important, and bidders should demonstrate their skills and experience in doing this.

Bidders will need to show that they understand the challenges that many new businesses face, particularly in the current climate, and what support they need. This should include details of the proposed delivery model and how it will address these needs and challenges.

#### **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: £600,000

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

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

No

## **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

## **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

# **II.2) Description**

## **II.2.1) Title**

Digitising Business, supporting e-commerce and retail

Lot No

2

## **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79413000 - Marketing management consultancy services

## **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex
- UKJ2 - Surrey, East and West Sussex
- UKJ4 - Kent

## **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Activity:

The programme must provide a programme of webinars, 1-2-1 and 1-2-many advice and diagnostics to businesses looking to adapt and innovate through digitisation in order to remain viable during and/or beyond a COVID-19 climate.

The programme will help businesses to build online presence and competitiveness/ marketing, rebuild supply chains, improve productivity, implement flexible working and/or new/hybrid business models, and employ tools to aid mental wellbeing.

The programme must include a small 100% grant scheme with a grant range of £500 - £2,000 for the purchase of new IT hardware/software identified or recommended and that will enable the adoption of new to business technology and approaches, available to businesses accessing sufficient advice and guidance through the programme.

Outcomes:

Minimum of 100 businesses safeguarded.

Minimum of 100 grants awarded to assist safeguarding of businesses and jobs, and to bring about operational/ behavioural change.

Evaluation of the programme to measure impact and identify changes to ways of working and behaviours brought about by the process of adapting to the impacts of COVID-19.

Skills and experience:

Bidders will need to demonstrate through their bids that they have the skills and experience required to run the programme competently and successfully.

Experience of working with and the ability to provide support to businesses is important, and bidders should demonstrate their skills and experience in doing this.

Bidders will need to show their skills and experience in undertaking relevant diagnostics with businesses, identifying their business needs and how the business can digitise to meet them.

**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: £750,000

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

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

No

**II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

**II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

**II.2) Description**

**II.2.1) Title**

Supporting the Visitor Economy

Lot No

3

**II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security

**II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex
- UKJ2 - Surrey, East and West Sussex
- UKJ4 - Kent

**II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

Visitor Economy Support Element 1 - Visitor Economy Grant Scheme:

Provision of a 100% grant scheme with a grant range of £1,000 - £3,000 for visitor economy businesses for the purchasing of tools, equipment and trading approaches needed to adapt or innovate, and facilitating a COVID-19 secure environment.

Grants shall be awarded to businesses who have already accessed recognised support/advice on how to innovate and/or remodel. For example, through the Growth Hubs, South East Business Boost, the South East Business COVID Recovery (SEBCOR), the Sector Support Fund Project Rebuilding Confidence and Demand in the

### Visitor Economy

Consideration will be given to the use of the Grant Scheme for the purchase of specialist support/ advice to enable businesses to adapt or innovate, if demand and/or a marketplace gap can be demonstrated at time of tender. Such proposals must align with complementary/ similar live schemes.

### Visitor Economy Support Element 2 - Rebooting the Visitor Economy in 2021:

Provision of a programme of support and training that will bring together and facilitate multiple businesses and organisations to curate a place-based offer, in order to increase visitor confidence, footfall and spend and regenerate the area.

The approach will provide a holistic and innovative approach to supporting visitor economy industries including creative, cultural, hospitality, leisure and accommodation, as they acclimatise to new trends and ways of working resulting from COVID-19.

The campaigns and curation of place-based offers will align with other live place-specific initiatives, such as the SELEP Sector Support Fund Rebuilding Confidence and Demand in the Visitor Economy project, and Future High Street Fund projects.

### Outcomes:

Minimum of 150 grants awarded to enable businesses to adapt and innovate, with potential for a minimum of 150 businesses and jobs to be safeguarded.

Places supported to recover and regenerate through the curation of place-based offers and associated campaigns, driven by business needs to increase visitor confidence, footfall and spend.

Business needs will be identified and curated through the bringing together of a specified number (or numeric range) of relevant businesses and organisations, representative of the visitor economy, to generate a specified number of place-based offers that will shape the reboot campaigns.

Evaluation of the programme to measure impact and identify changes to ways of working and behaviours brought about by the process of adapting to the impacts of COVID-19.

Skills and experience:

Bidders will need to demonstrate through their bids that they have the skills and experience required to run the programme competently and successfully.

Experience of working with and the ability to provide support to relevant businesses is important, and bidders should demonstrate their skills and experience in doing this.

Bidders will need to demonstrate a good understanding of the particular challenges and issues faced by the visitor economy and show both their skills and experience in working with key visitor economy industries or sectors, and facilitating collaborative place-based activities.

#### **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: £1,000,000

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

Duration in months

24

This contract is subject to renewal

No

#### **II.2.10) Information about variants**

Variants will be accepted: No

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

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## Section IV. Procedure

### IV.1) Description

#### IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open 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

Envisaged maximum number of participants to the framework agreement: 3

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

### IV.2) Administrative information

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

Date

5 February 2021

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

#### IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 9 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

#### IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

5 February 2021

Local time

1:00pm

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.1) Information about recurrence**

This is a recurrent procurement: No

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

High Court, Royal Courts of Justice

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom