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Contract

Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Evaluation

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

UK7: Contract details notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-000957

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0580b7 ([view related notices](#))

Published 7 January 2026, 10:58am

Scope

Reference

GMCA 1477

Description

GMCA are procuring an evaluation partner to undertake an evaluation of the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer (EITB) programme in Greater Manchester (GM), a detailed overview of which can be found in section 6 of the specification. There are three main elements of this evaluation:

- 1.) A desk-based summary of insights into effective employment support programmes for economically inactive people using AI.
- 2.) A qualitative process evaluation to test and evaluate the successes and shortfalls of the EITB design and delivery.
- 3.) A data preparedness study to inform a future impact and value-for-money evaluation.

The contract period will be for 8 months with the option to extend for up to an additional 12 months. It is intended for the contract to commence in October 2025. The maximum budget available for the initial period (October 2025 - June 2026) is £208,333 (excluding VAT).

The GMCA reserves the right to extend this contract for an additional 12 months. The value of this extension period is up to £208,333 (excluding VAT). Therefore, the estimated total value of the contract, including all optional extension periods, is up to a maximum of £416,666 (excluding VAT).

Contract 1. GMCA 1477 Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Evaluation Partner

Supplier

- SQW LIMITED

Contract value

- £392,212.76 excluding VAT
- £470,655.60 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Date signed

30 October 2025

Contract dates

- 30 October 2025 to 30 June 2026
- Possible extension to 30 June 2027
- 1 year, 8 months, 2 days

Description of possible extension:

The Authority may extend the contract beyond the initial contract period by a further 12 months.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London

- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Justification for not setting key performance indicators

The evaluation partner will be required to produce a set of outputs against specific deadlines

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

SQW LIMITED

- Companies House: 01701564
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PPNW-1129-JJYW

SQW, Oxford Centre for Innovation, Blue Boar Court, 9 Alfred Street

Oxford

OX1 4EH

United Kingdom

Email: ittnotices@sqw.co.uk

Website: <http://www.sqw.co.uk>

Region: UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXBN-3793-LCTQ

56 Oxford Street

Manchester

M1 6EU

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@manchesterfire.gov.uk

Region: UKD33 - Manchester

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government