

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/001232-2026>

Tender

Ambitious Essex Enhanced Growth Hub

Essex County Council

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-001232

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0588ec ([view related notices](#))

Published 7 January 2026, 4:58pm

Scope

Reference

PL0117

Description

Essex County Council (ECC) currently delivers business support through two main programmes: the Ambitious Essex Growth Hub, funded by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), and Backing Essex Business, funded by ECC. While both services have been effective in supporting businesses across the county, feedback from the business community has consistently highlighted challenges in navigating the support landscape and identifying the most appropriate service for their needs.

With both contracts due to expire on 31st March 2026, ECC is taking the opportunity to reprocure and consolidate these services into a single, streamlined business support offer. This new service will be designed to simplify access for businesses, adapt to business needs, remove duplication, and deliver improved value for money.

Total value (estimated)

- £1,140,000 excluding VAT
- £1,368,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- 3 years

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

The Authority reserves the right at any time during the Term of this Agreement to add services that are similar and/or complementary services to the Services (Additional Services) including but not limited to provisions of support services in relation to marketing, finance and construction. See Terms and Conditions publish at tender for more details of this.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 66000000 - Financial and insurance services
- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

21 January 2026, 4:00pm

Tender submission deadline

2 February 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

The bids to be submitted electronically to Procontract : <https://procontract.due-north.com/RFx/RFxSummary?rfxId=9a6ab472-e1eb-f011-813c-005056b64545&projectId=37aeda8c-4d78-f011-813a-005056b64545>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

1 April 2026

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	45%
Price	Price	40%
Social Value	Quality	10%
Climate	Quality	5%

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

1. It is anticipated, that during the life of this contract, the LGR process will commence and progress potentially impacting this contract. Impacts may include, but are not limited to, modifications such as a transfer of the legal entity you currently contract with, significant increases and/or decreases in the value/volume of services and works required due to the change in size/scope of the Contracting Authority, and/or changes to the scope of the nature of goods/services/works required. Although any contract scope changes should broadly relate to the nature of the existing scope, new goods/services/works of a related nature may be required that were not previously included.

2. As a result of withdrawal or increase in funding there is a risk that funding may change throughout the lifetime of the contract Leading to a need to modify the contract to either decrease or increase the services.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Email: Abbey.Wellington@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government