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Planning

Education and Social Care Transport Assistance

Central Bedfordshire Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-003041

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-029348

Published 15 February 2021, 4:17pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Central Bedfordshire Council

Priory House

Chicksands

SG17 5TQ

Contact

+44 3003005997

Email

procurement@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3003008000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKH25 - Central Bedfordshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://in-tendhost.co.uk/centralbedfordshire>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

General public services

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Education and Social Care Transport Assistance

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60120000 - Taxi services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Dear School Transport Providers Over the last few months Central Bedfordshire Council has been reviewing our approach to delivery of Home to School and Social Care transport for both mainstream and SEND students with the view of implementing a new approach for the 2021/22 academic year. We gained Executive Committee approval at the start of January to procure transport provision on a Zonal Model with 8 Zones across Central Bedfordshire, each with three contracted providers. One for buses/coaches and one for minibuses and one for taxis. However, following feedback from our current providers on the impact that this scale of change could have on the overall market at a time when COVID-19 has severely restricted their other forms of income of the intended eight geographic zones, we have decided to tender for two zones to start in the 2021/22 academic year. These will be Biggleswade and Ampthill/Flitwick. This change in approach is to minimise the impact whilst still being in the process of changing how we procure home to school and social care transport provision. For the remaining six zones we plan to procure these next year for the start of the 2022/23 academic year and where possible will be extending current arrangements for the intervening twelve months to ensure continuity for children, young people and families and providers. Through these extensions we seek to support the income of providers whilst their other forms of income are restricted, but we will also be asking suppliers to provide some of the low or no cost elements of the new service requirements. For example requesting the inclusion of Travel Passports for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) which will give drivers and passenger assistants a summary of their transport needs and likes/dislikes, particularly helpful if regular staff are unavailable and a new person is supporting the child. We are currently planning to publish the tender for the first two zones w/c 22nd February 2021 with contracts commencing on 19th July 2021 to support transition arrangements for children young people and families. However full provision of services will not start until 1st September 2021. On Thursday 25th February 2021,

between 2:00pm and 3:30pm we will be holding a virtual Provider Event to outline the service requirements and procurement process in more detail and provide the opportunity for attendees to ask questions prior the tender being released the following week. If you would like to attend the virtual Provider Event, please get in touch via CSCommissioning@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Regards

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60120000 - Taxi services
- 60172000 - Hire of buses and coaches with driver

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH25 - Central Bedfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Home to school transport.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

12 February 2021

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No