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Tender

Adult Skills and Skills Bootcamps

Cornwall Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-003521

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04c89b

Published 3 February 2025, 4:19pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Cornwall Council

County Hall, Treyew Road

Truro

TR1 3AY

Contact

Mr John Ward

Email

john.ward@cornwall.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK3 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

<https://www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk>

I.3) Communication

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

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert/Index?advertId=b3585c90-b3b0-ef11-8132-005056b64545>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert/Index?advertId=b3585c90-b3b0-ef11-8132-005056b64545>

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

Adult Skills and Skills Bootcamps

Reference number

DN753886

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Cornwall Council (Council) is seeking to put in place a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to support the provision of Adult Skills and Skills Bootcamp training and commissioned activities that will support individuals to develop the skills needed for everyday life and work, including progressing towards, entering into and sustaining work and upskilling or retraining in order to advance or change their career.

As the services in this procurement fall under Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, this DPS will be governed by regulations 74 to 77 (the so-called Light Touch Regime), providing the Council with additional flexibility. Unlike a continuously open DPS, this DPS will operate through a series of defined windows that will open and close throughout the duration of the DPS. Further details on the additional flexibilities are detailed in the procurement documents and summarised in this notice.

The DPS will be a completely electronic system and includes three Lots:

- Lot 1 – Adult Skills
- Lot 2 – Free Courses For Jobs
- Lot 3 – Skills Bootcamps

This notice invites any organisation ('Applicant') interested in joining the Council's DPS during the initial window to submit a Request to Participate ('RTP') in stage 1 of the procurement no later than 12 noon 10th March 2025 ('RTP Return Date').

Those Applicants whose RTP meet the Council's evaluation methodology will be eligible to join the DPS as a Participant ('Participant'). Stage 2 of the procurement the Council will use a Mini-Competition process to award Call-Off Contracts(s) to Participant(s) for Service requirements under one or more of the DPS Lots.

The Council anticipate that the DPS will be chosen approach to award a Call-Off Contracts for the delivery of Adult Skills and Free Courses For Jobs funding commencing August 2025 (following devolution of the funding to Council in 2025). Subject to confirmation of funding by Department For Education the Council also intends to use this DPS to award Skills Bootcamps delivery in Cornwall from 2025/26, replacing services previously delivered in partnership with Devon County Council under the Train 4 Tomorrow initiative.

The estimated values in this notice are given in good faith as a guide and are not an undertaking on behalf of the Council to purchase Services to this or any other particular value and shall not create a binding obligation.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £15,942,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

Lot 1 - Adult Skills, Lot 2 - Free Courses For Jobs and Lot 3 - Skills Bootcamps

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 1 - Adult Skills

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services
- 80500000 - Training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK3 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- UKK4 - Devon

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The principal purpose of the devolved ASF is to engage adults aged 19+ and provide them with the skills needed for entering and sustaining work, an apprenticeship/traineeship, or other further learning.

It provides funding for programmes of learning up to Level 2 (GCSE level equivalent) and some Level 3 qualifications for individuals aged 19-23. It does not fund all Level 3 learning as this is delivered through Free Courses for Jobs or Advanced Learner Loans, or programmes at Level 4 and above which are also funded through Advanced Learner Loans or Higher Education (HE) funding.

The devolved ASF encompasses a range of statutory entitlements for learners, including the right to fully funded provision for basic English and maths qualifications and, depending on the resident's age and employment status, an entitlement to a first Level 2 and/or Level 3 qualification for individuals aged 19-23.

The devolved ASF also includes non-formula Tailored Learning provision. The primary purpose of tailored learning is to support learners into employment and to progress to further learning, in line with the overall purpose of the ASF. It will, however, also support wider outcomes including using it to improve health and wellbeing, equip parents/carers to support their child's learning and develop stronger and more integrated communities.

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: £5,056,000

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

End date

23 February 2029

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.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

In order to join the Council DPS the Applicant must meet the following minimum standards:

- 1) Hold a valid UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) from the UK Register of Learning Providers.
- 2) Be either registered with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services (Ofsted) with your most recent Ofsted rating of grade 3 – requires improvement or above; or if you are a new training provider awaiting a monitoring visit from Ofsted. If this applies, please state your anticipated inspection date.
- 3) Have the ability to submit funding claims via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) individual learner record (ILR).
- 4) Hold a cyber essential basics accreditation.
- 5) Hold policies and procedure (as set out in the procurement documents) that meet current legislative requirements, the Council's Contract and Ofsted requirements.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 2 - Free Courses For Jobs

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services
- 80500000 - Training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK3 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- UKK4 - Devon

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Funding in Lot 2 is available for Free Courses for Jobs provision to support adults to gain free fully funded Level 3 qualifications that are part of the national approved adult offer.

The Free Courses for Jobs Level 3 Adult Offer is designed to help adults to gain the skills that are sought by employers. This will help them improve their job prospects and support economic recovery.

This offer includes around 400 Level 3 qualifications in 20 different sector subject areas (SSA). Cornwall Council as part of its devolved freedom and flexibilities has added additional courses to this list. The Council in consultation with providers will monitor qualifications on the approved list to ensure that they meet the needs of the County's strategic priorities.

Funding in this Lot should support adults aged 24+ to gain their first Level 3 qualification.

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: £2,036,000

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

End date

23 February 2029

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.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

In order to join the Council DPS the Applicant must meet the following minimum standards:

- 1) Hold a valid UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) from the UK Register of Learning Providers.
- 2) Be either registered with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services (Ofsted) with your most recent Ofsted rating of grade 3 – requires improvement or above; or if you are a new training provider awaiting a monitoring visit from Ofsted. If this applies, please state your anticipated inspection date.
- 3) Have the ability to submit funding claims via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) individual learner record (ILR).
- 4) Hold a cyber essential basics accreditation.
- 5) Hold policies and procedure (as set out in the procurement documents) that meet current legislative requirements, the Council's Contract and Ofsted requirements.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot 3 - Skills Bootcamps

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services
- 80500000 - Training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK3 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- UKK4 - Devon

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 3-5 (and in certain cases Level 2) or equivalent flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, with a guaranteed job interview (in the case of a new job), which equip adults with technical skills that enable them to access in-demand jobs, apprenticeships, new opportunities, and an increased level of income over time (including for the self-employed).

They are designed to support rapid training into higher-paid and sustainable job roles for sectors with evidenced vacancies, that align to the Department for Education (DfE) sector priorities; Digital, Technical, Green Skills, HGV, Construction, Early Years and Creative Industries and regional sector priorities (capped at 50% of the award total).

Provision in this Lot should be open to Cornwall residents aged 19 or over who are full-time or part-time employed, self-employed, unemployed (i.e. not in work), as well as adults returning to work after a break.

Applicants must ensure employer involvement in the design and delivery of their Skills Bootcamp provision. Applicants will be required to provide evidence of their work with employers. This could include involvement in the provision of behavioural skills support, work experience, coaching and mentoring, or the delivery of content.

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: £8,850,000

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

End date

23 February 2029

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.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

II.2.14) Additional information

In order to join the Council DPS the Applicant must meet the following minimum standards:

- 1) Hold a valid UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) from the UK Register of Learning Providers.
- 2) Be either registered with the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services (Ofsted) with your most recent Ofsted rating of grade 3 – requires improvement or above; or if you are a new training provider awaiting a monitoring visit from Ofsted. If this applies, please state your anticipated inspection date.
- 3) Have the ability to submit funding claims via the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) individual learner record (ILR).
- 4) Hold a cyber essential basics accreditation.
- 5) Hold policies and procedure (as set out in the procurement documents) that meet current legislative requirements, the Council's Contract and Ofsted requirements.

Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.2) Conditions related to the contract

III.2.3) Information about staff responsible for the performance of the contract

Obligation to indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff assigned to performing the contract

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the setting up of a dynamic purchasing system

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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2024/S 000-040547](#)

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

Date

10 March 2025

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.3) Additional information

If you are interested in applying to join the Council's DPS you must:

a) Register on the Council's ProContract System

<https://www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk>

b) Express an interest in the project titled "Adult Skills and Skills Bootcamps - DN753886"

c) Download, read and carefully consider the Council's ITP and Selection Questionnaire (SQ)

d) Complete the Council's SQ and submit their completed SQ and any supporting documents as a Request to Participate to the Council electronically using the ProContract System no later than the Request to Participate Return Date.

To lever the additional flexibility provided under Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 this DPS incorporates elements of a dynamic purchasing system with the following additional adjustments being made by the Council as the Services fall under the light touch regime:

1. Limited access to join the DPS - This DPS will not remain continuously open for new Applicants to apply to join throughout its duration. Instead, the DPS will operate through a series of defined windows that will open and close during the duration of the DPS. Applicants will only be able to apply to join the DPS when the designated windows are open.

2. Initial and additional windows - An initial window will be opened to allow Applicants to join the DPS and then the initial window will close. The Council intends to open additional windows periodically throughout the duration of the DPS, enabling Applicants who were not previously admitted to the DPS, to apply to join the DPS.

3. Categories - Before initiating a Mini-Competition, the Council will filter those Participants admitted to the DPS using the following Categories (selected in stage 1) to identify those Participants that are capable of meeting the Service requirements and will be eligible to participate in a Mini-Competition:

- Lot 1 – Adult Skills and Lot 2 – Free Courses For Jobs: Category 1 – Delivery Location, and Category 2 - Subject Area / Qualification Level / Delivery Approach.
- Lot 3 – Skills Bootcamps: Category 1 – Sub-category / Subject Area / Qualification Level.

4. Economic and financial standing of Applicant/Participant - While the Council will undertake an evaluation of each Applicant's economic and financial standing during stage 1 of the procurement, this will not consider turnover. Instead, the Council will be set a minimum turnover requirement within each Mini-Competition within stage 2 of the procurement and within each Mini-Competition require Participants to demonstrate they a turnover that is at least two times the pre-estimated value of the Call-Off Contract.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Cornwall Council

Treyew Road

Truro

TR1 3AY

Country

United Kingdom