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Tender

## **Emergency Welfare Scheme: Oxfordshire Crisis Fund**

Oxfordshire County Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-003636

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03a34d

Published 6 February 2023, 5:12pm

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

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

Oxfordshire County Council

3rd Floor, County Hall

Oxford

OX1 1ND

#### **Contact**

Mr Thomas Ashby

#### **Email**

[thomas.ashby@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.ashby@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 7827822641

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

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

Buyer's address

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.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=4bcecbc5-3fa6-ed11-811f-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=4bcecbc5-3fa6-ed11-811f-005056b64545>

**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**

Emergency Welfare Scheme: Oxfordshire Crisis Fund

Reference number

DN654399

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

- 72250000 - System and support services

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

Services

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

It is well understood that the availability of emergency welfare funds, designed to support low-income households with urgent and unforeseen needs, can help prevent immediate crisis turning into long-term deprivation.

Unlike the majority of upper tier authorities, Oxfordshire County Council (“the Council”) currently has no business-as-usual crisis fund.

While specific funding is available in some local areas (for example from Town and Parish Councils) and for specific groups, there is no equivalent fund open to all eligible residents across the County. This leaves a gap for ‘last-resort’ support in the Oxfordshire system.

The Government has increasingly adopted an expectation that local delivery capacity for emergency scheme exists and that this can address gaps in national welfare provision. Further, the Government assumes that this infrastructure is in place and can be used to spend new funding streams at short notice.

Following the administration of a series of short-term interventions through the COVID-19 and subsequent cost-of-living crisis, the Council has now identified a business case for implanting a new scheme and a revenue budget has been agreed for 2023/24-2025/26 inclusive.

The Council wishes to procure the capacity to deliver and provide for a new Oxfordshire Crisis Fund that will:

Receive applications and / or referrals for crisis funding; determine eligibility against criteria set by the Council; issue support where an application is successful in a form

agreed by the Council; communicate with unsuccessful applications; and, in all cases, offer signposting and additional support information.

Issue support to individuals specifically pre-identified by the Council as in need of support, without the need for an eligibility check.

Implement an appropriate level-1 complaints procedure.

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

This contract is divided into lots: No

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

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

NUTS codes

- UKJ14 - Oxfordshire

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

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Unlike the majority of upper tier authorities, Oxfordshire County Council (“the Council”) currently has no business-as-usual crisis fund.

While specific funding is available in some local areas (for example from Town and Parish Councils) and for specific groups, there is no equivalent fund open to all eligible residents across the County. This leaves a gap for ‘last-resort’ support in the Oxfordshire system.

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Implement an appropriate level-1 complaints procedure.

#### **II.2.5) Award criteria**

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

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

Start date

1 April 2023

End date

31 March 2025

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

Potential of 2 years on aggregate.

#### **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

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Restricted procedure

Accelerated procedure

Justification:

Restricted as this relates to social and health related services.

#### **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

20 February 2023

Local time

12:00pm

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

English

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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**

Oxfordshire County Council

Oxford

Country

United Kingdom