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Planning

## **Soft Market Testing for Growth Hub- 2025 (a Business Support Service)**

Essex County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-004818

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04de58

Published 12 February 2025, 5:30pm

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

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

Essex County Council

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

#### **Contact**

Mr Craig Johnson

#### **Email**

[craig.johnson@essex.gov.uk](mailto:craig.johnson@essex.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 333

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKH3 - Essex

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://procontract.due-north.com/>

Buyer's address

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/>

**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

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## Section II: Object

### II.1) Scope of the procurement

#### II.1.1) Title

Soft Market Testing for Growth Hub- 2025 (a Business Support Service)

Reference number

DN762967

#### II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services

#### II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

#### II.1.4) Short description

Essex County Council (ECC) intends to procure a specialist provider to provide Growth Hub support. Growth Hubs are an established business support service provided, which provide free and impartial signposting, information, and advice to all businesses looking to succeed, helping them to navigate the national and local support landscape. It is Government grant funded annually by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and provides a one stop shop for business support services that offers: • Information, navigation, and signposting via a coordinated, multi-channel service • One-to-one structured support to small and medium enterprises, incorporating a diagnostic assessment of business needs and advice and guidance.

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is intended to alert providers to an opportunity to deliver the Growth Hub service for Essex County Council.

The estimated launch date for the opportunity is April 2025.

Please contact Craig Johnson at [craig.johnson@essex.gov.uk](mailto:craig.johnson@essex.gov.uk) to express an interest in the Growth Hub service.

#### II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

## **II.2) Description**

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

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

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

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## **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

1 April 2025

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## **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