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Tender

SC20081 – Kent and Medway Growth Hub

Kent County Council

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-005009

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-029b02

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Kent County Council

Invicta House

Maidstone

ME14 1XX

Contact

Ms Milly Massy

Email

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Telephone

+44 3000422036

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

<http://www.kent.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=b3d0d696-0e83-eb11-810c-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=b3d0d696-0e83-eb11-810c-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

SC20081 – Kent and Medway Growth Hub

Reference number

DN531775

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79900000 - Miscellaneous business and business-related services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Growth Hubs are locally based, Government-backed services linked to the national business support helpline. They enable businesses to access local and national business support. Government funding for Growth Hubs is made available via the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) covers Kent and Medway, Essex, Southend, Thurrock and East Sussex. It is the largest LEP in England. The SELEP (via Essex County Council as its accountable body) receives funding from Government for a Growth Hub. The SELEP operates a federal model, with local partnerships for each economic area within the LEP. For Kent and Medway, this is the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP). The Growth Hub for the SELEP area reflects this federal model, with separately procured and managed services in Kent and Medway, Essex and East Sussex.

The Council wishes to procure a local Growth Hub service across the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership. The Growth Hub aims to simplify and coordinate access to business support in local areas, connecting businesses with the best support available from the private and public sectors. It will target support on those businesses with the opportunity, ambition, and greatest potential to grow.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Background

Growth Hubs are locally based, Government-backed services linked to the national business support helpline. They enable businesses to access local and national business support. Government funding for Growth Hubs is made available via the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) covers Kent and Medway, Essex, Southend, Thurrock and East Sussex. It is the largest LEP in England. The SELEP (via Essex County Council as its accountable body) receives funding from Government for a Growth Hub. The SELEP operates a federal model, with local partnerships for each economic area within the LEP. For Kent and Medway, this is the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP). The Growth Hub for the SELEP area reflects this federal model, with separately procured and managed services in Kent and Medway, Essex and East Sussex.

The current Kent and Medway Growth Hub service can be accessed at www.askphil.biz

Procurement Description

The Council wishes to procure a local Growth Hub service across the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership. The Growth Hub aims to simplify and coordinate access to business support in local areas, connecting businesses with the best support available from the private and public sectors. It will target support on those businesses with the opportunity, ambition, and greatest potential to grow.

The contract term will be from 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2024 (33 months). Contract value is circa £224K per annum (subject to funding allocation), for the “core” service, to engage over 4150 businesses and support 1380 per annum. With a further £300k for “enhanced” business support services of 36 hours intensive support to an additional 50 businesses over a 12-month period.

Key activities include:

Core:

- Marketing and Engagement of the service to businesses
- Provision of single point of contact for business support services
- Assessment of business need and signposting to relevant support.
- Direct one to one business support for ambitious and high growth companies
- Development of strategic partnerships and robust referral networks
- Data collection, verification, and reporting

Enhanced:

- Delivery of 36 hours of intensive support over a 12-month period to support SMEs emerging from the pandemic. Activities are not prescriptive but required metrics around economic impact will need to be met.

Any organisation who wishes to tender for this opportunity is required to express an interest via the Kent Business Portal (www.kentbusinessportal.org.uk), on expression of interest a copy of the Selection Questionnaire will be made available for submission no later than noon 12th April 2021.

In the event that additional funding for this service is granted to the Council to continue to deliver the Growth Hub Services consisting of the repetition of similar services entrusted to the Supplier under this Contract after 31 March 2023, the Council reserves the right to procure the new services via the negotiated procedure without prior publication in accordance with Regulation 32(9) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the conditions for which will be as per the conditions of the grant funding

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

Duration in months

33

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Competitive procedure with negotiation

IV.1.5) Information about negotiation

The contracting authority reserves the right to award the contract on the basis of the initial tenders without conducting negotiations

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

12 April 2021

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: Yes

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Kent County Council

Maidstone

Country

United Kingdom