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Award

Pensions Administration Software

Wolverhampton City Council the administering authority for West Midlands Pension Fund

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-005472

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-031bfc

Published 28 February 2022, 5:36pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Wolverhampton City Council the administering authority for West Midlands Pension Fund

Civic Centre, St Peters Square

Wolverhampton

WV1 1RL

Contact

Mr John Thompson

Email

john.thompson@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1902554503

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKG39 - Wolverhampton

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Pension Fund

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Pensions Administration Software

Reference number

DN599999

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 66523100 - Pension fund administration services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The West Midlands Pension Fund is one of the UK's largest pension funds, managing and administering the pension interests of our members and scheme employers. The administrative back office requirements are delivered via the system.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £500,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKG39 - Wolverhampton

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The West Midlands Pension Fund is one of the UK's largest pension funds, managing and administering the pension interests of our members and scheme employers. The administrative back office requirements are delivered via the system. The Software system with support and maintain member pension fund details.

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

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

Wolverhampton City Council, the administering authority for West Midlands Pension Fund (WCC) issued an invitation to tender for pensions administration software and services in 2021. Following evaluation bids were tied and the procurement for this service was discontinued.

A revised invitation to tender was subsequently issued and after an extended clarification period the outcome was not settled until November 2021. As a result, the contract with the incumbent provider will shortly expire. The contract with the new provider has been executed, mobilisation has commenced, and the new system is due to go live from 1st April 2023.

Due to the critical nature of the pensions administration system which supports the pensions of 330,000 members it is imperative that this system is maintained with the incumbent provider until the new system goes live next year.

WCC has made enquiries with regard to utilising a call off contract from the Crown Commercial Service G Cloud Framework but was informed that due to the current system being on-premise it would not be a viable option to migrate to the cloud for what is such a short term requirement.

Regulation 32(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, provides that a contract may be awarded under the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice where the works, supplies or services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator because competition is absent for technical reasons.

Given the technical nature of the system and the timescale required to implement a new system the incumbent provider is the only economic operator who can provide this service without which WCC cannot operate the pension fund.

WCC believes there is no reasonable alternative or substitute available and the absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement. The contract is awarded for the shortest period available to allow the new provider time to implement their new system.

A 10 day standstill period period will now commence which will expire on the at midday on the 11th March, following this WCC will award a contract to the current incumbent supplier for a 12 month period

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

28 February 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Civica UK Limited

Southbank Central, 30 Stamford Street

London

SE1 9LQ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG39 - Wolverhampton

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £500,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Wolverhampton City Council

Wolverhampton

Country

United Kingdom