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Contract

Implementation of a Covid secure scheme for businesses in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-006697

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-02a19a

Published 31 March 2021, 4:10pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Hertfordshire County Council

PEGS LANE

HERTFORD

SG138DQ

Email

nicole.mccaffrey@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

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

Implementation of a Covid secure scheme for businesses in Hertfordshire

Reference number

HCC2112794

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71317210 - Health and safety consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Hertfordshire Trading Standards have been urgently requested by the Hertfordshire Health Protection Board to implement a Covid secure business accreditation scheme that seeks to impact on transmission rates of Covid 19 in supermarkets, grocers, hospitality and other non-essential retail businesses. The scheme will ensure businesses are adhering to a consistent set of Covid 19 prevention standards and aims to improve consumer confidence in those businesses.

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: £2,300,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This project implements a pilot 'Covid secure' accreditation scheme in retail shops, hospitality and other non-essential businesses in Hertfordshire in Broxbourne.

There is evidence to suggest that transmission in supermarkets and food retail remains a problem and with the Government's roadmap to re-opening other hospitality and retail businesses from Spring 2021, there is an urgent need to ensure that businesses already open are compliant to a consistent set of standards and that for those due to re-open that they too are compliant and that consumers will have the confidence to use them when permitted. This would be achieved by registration, auditing and inspection of member businesses.

The arrangement would initially be for a pilot to be conducted in Broxbourne and if evaluation proves successful to continue to roll out the scheme across Hertfordshire. If the pilot is unsuccessful then the contract will be terminated by HCC.

Please see section V((award of contract) for further details)

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.14) Additional information

The value of the initial pilot is £213,000. The value indicated in Section II.1.7 is for the total contract value, should the scheme be rolled out to the whole of the County of Hertfordshire.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable for the contracting authority

Explanation:

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is relying on regulation 32(2)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in making this award without prior publication. Regulation 32(2)(c) permits such an award: "insofar as is strictly necessary where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by the contracting authority, the time limits for the open or restricted procedures or competitive procedures with negotiation cannot be complied with."

For the reasons set out in II.1.4 and II.2.4, the extreme urgency relates to the need to ensure businesses are accredited now and as they re-open. If HCC fails to take steps to urgently ensure high levels of compliance, there is a real risk that transmissions will rise and put the county at risk of further local restrictions causing significant damage to the local economy and risking further negative impacts on residents. The need to procure this service was unforeseeable given the fast moving nature of the COVID-19 response. A tender process would delay the implementation to a point when most businesses will already be opening. In respect of the requirement in Regulation 32(4) that the circumstances invoked to justify extreme urgency must not be attributable to the contracting authority, HCC considers that the urgency is due to the need to respond to public health risks and the timetable in the Government's reopening roadmap, neither of which are within the control of HCC.

A business accreditation scheme known as 'Safe To Trade' is currently offered by Shield Safety Group Ltd, an environmental health consultancy company with the capacity and staff to quickly roll out their scheme in any given area.

Shield Safety Group Ltd would operate and deliver this scheme on the Council's behalf thereby relieving the local authority of large scale inspection burdens whilst at the same time maintaining confidence in standards and helping to reduce transmission of Covid 19 by achieving greater compliance with set guidelines.

If evaluation of the pilot proves successful, the scheme will be rolled out across

Hertfordshire in an expeditious way. In expanding the scheme county-wide as quickly as possible during the Government's roadmap it will be important to maintain a consistent high-quality auditing process, public communications and joint branding approach that will be established before and during the pilot phase. Furthermore, to ensure the scheme will be effective county-wide, it is essential to provide continuity to businesses and consumers by maintaining the working processes with the one provider partnered with during the initial pilot and not risk confusing businesses and consumers with the inevitable changes in auditing and communications that would result. For these reasons the provider which carries out the pilot also needs to carry out the county-wide scheme.

The length of the contract is expected to be relatively short particularly if transmission rates fall and mitigation measures required by businesses reduce later in the year. The arrangement is therefore restricted to what is absolutely necessary.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

HCC2112794

Title

Implementation of a Covid secure scheme for businesses in Hertfordshire

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

30 March 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Shield Safety Group Ltd

45/47 - 1st Floor Newton Street

Manchester

M1 1FT

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD3 - Greater Manchester

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £2,300,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court, Royal Courts of Justice

The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 20794760000

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.4) Service from which information about the review procedure may be obtained

Hertfordshire County Council

Pegs Lane

Hertford

SG13 8DE

Country

United Kingdom