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Tender

## **WMCA Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support Flexible Procurement System**

West Midlands Combined Authority

F02: Contract notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-006817

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04d687

Published 21 February 2025, 2:23pm

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

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

West Midlands Combined Authority

16 Summer Lane

Birmingham

B19 3SD

#### **Email**

[william.pemberton@wmca.org.uk](mailto:william.pemberton@wmca.org.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 3453036760

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

#### **Region code**

UKG - West Midlands (England)

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/>

**I.3) Communication**

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://wmca.bravosolution.co.uk/go/5876175501949857BCCF>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://wmca.bravosolution.co.uk/go/5876175501949857BCCF>

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to 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**

WMCA Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support Flexible Procurement System

Reference number

TESES FPS

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

This notice is being used to inform the market of the establishment of a Flexible Procurement System (FPS) for Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support by West Midlands Combined Authority, which will from this point on be known as the WMCA Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support Flexible Procurement System (TESES FPS).

WMCA have opted to establish an FPS under the Light Touch Regime rules, within the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR, 2015) to deliver our Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support services provision. An FPS is an overarching agreement that allows FPS Providers who are admitted onto it to subsequently compete for Call-off Contracts through further competitions. It operates in a similar way to a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) but will have set windows for evaluation of Applications to join. This will allow WMCA to continually expand our network of providers and welcome new FPS Providers that are able to meet our requirements for the duration of the FPS.

The TESES FPS will follow-on from the WMCA Adult Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS), established in November 2022, to offer an expedient route to market and direct access to the provider base for WMCA's Skills and Employment Support requirements. The refresh of this route to market has been made in order to align with WMCA's Employment and Skills Strategy and to streamline the bidding process for employment and skills providers. Through engagement with key stakeholders, WMCA identified where improvements could be made to the Adult Skills DPS for the benefit of WMCA, our providers and our residents.

The FPS will include five categories of delivery, linked to pillars within the Employment and Skills Strategy. In order to be included on 4 of the categories, Applicants will be required to demonstrate their understanding and capability of delivering in those category areas. The categories will include;

- Building strong and inclusive communities
- Providing a good education up to level 2
- Moving residents into employment and supporting career progression

- Meeting future skills needs at level 3 and above through upskilling and reskilling
- Innovation

Although this FPS is being established in order to facilitate immediate and easy access to the Adult Skills and Employment Support Market, WMCA will not be mandated to use it for every requirement.

Once established, Call-off Competitions will be run under this FPS in order to find suitable FPS Providers to deliver individual Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support provision Call-off Contracts. Call-off Contracts will be awarded to the successful FPS Provider/s in line with the award criteria stated in the Call-off ITT documents, which will be formulated using the Most Advantageous Tender (MAT) principle, comprising of Technical, Commercial and (if applicable) Social Value criteria.

The deadline for submission of initial applications is Monday 31st March 2025 at 23:59. Once initial applications have been evaluated and FPS Agreements awarded to successful applicants, the FPS will re-open for further applications.

#### **II.1.5) Estimated total value**

Value excluding VAT: £1,000,000,000

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

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 5

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

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Building strong and inclusive communities

Lot No

1

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

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

Every part of the region should have a strong local offer of numeracy, literacy, language and digital skills for communities that supports good health & well-being, builds confidence, improves inclusion & integration, develops key life skills and prepares learners for employment, self-employment or further learning.

A place-based approach should ensure a focus on first engagement opportunities for communities under-represented in learning and disadvantaged in the labour market, providing a clear pathway towards level 2.

This offer will take place in community settings as short first steps provision with a progression pathway onto an Adult and Community Education Service.

### **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**

End date

23 February 2029

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

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Providing a good education up to level 2

Lot No

2

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

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

Every part of the region should have a strong local offer that provides any residents who need it with a good education up to level 2. This should include:

A comprehensive offer of high quality, locally available opportunities to improve literacy and numeracy, including through statutory entitlements e.g. Functional Skills Qualifications

A purpose-driven offer of English language learning up to level 2 that supports the cultural capital, social capital and vocational development of learners as they improve their language skills

A digital skills offer that helps residents access online support services needed for health, welfare, training or employment

Integrating vocational training at level 2 as a component to support progression to further learning, work or in-work progression. This should target those occupations where high vacancy demand exists, where there is a greening of job roles to support net zero and in occupations likely to have a higher proportion of workers without qualifications

The offer should be relevant and adaptable to the 47% of adult residents without foundation skills qualifications who are in work. Flexible and accessible delivery models should enable learners to study alongside wider commitments. Strong partnership

arrangements and personalised support should ensure clear progression pathways into level 2 provision or good work.

A place-based approach should ensure a focus on those areas/people with the lowest skill levels and lowest levels of participation in adult education.

#### **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**

End date

23 February 2029

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

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

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Moving residents into employment and supporting career progression

Lot No

3

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

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

Every part of the region should have a strong into-work offer aligned to local labour market opportunities. This should include provision that supports:

young people to transition into the labour market

unemployed adults into good work

economically inactive adults into the labour market, including those who have a health condition or disability

in-work progression out of low pay, including for those in the gig economy and on zero hours contracts

people in employment, experiencing systemic disadvantage due to disabilities, gender, ethnic background or other characteristics

retraining for career change, including for those without good foundation skills

Working with specialist providers and in partnership with employers, the offer will deliver the skills that businesses need, providing clear progression pathways into good work alongside effective wraparound support for learners.

The offer should include flexible delivery models that are accessible for residents who work shifts or who can only attend at weekends and/or evenings.

A place-based approach should ensure a focus on those areas/people with high levels of labour market insecurity, including unemployment, inactivity, in-work poverty and/or risk of redundancy.

### **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**



End date

23 February 2029

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

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

#### **II.2.1) Title**

Meeting future skills needs at level 3 and above through upskilling and reskilling

Lot No

4

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

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

Every part of the region should have a higher-level skills offer aligned to regional economic priorities. This should include:

A strong and broad offer at level 3, accessible to those in employment and affordable for those in low paid work

A flexible modular offer at level 4/5 aligned to the requirements of businesses, to support retraining or career progression

An accessible leadership and management offer at level 4 and above that supports SMEs to improve productivity and growth and is targeted on residents currently under-represented in L&M training

Working with universities, colleges, specialist providers and in partnership with employers, the offer will serve the growing requirement for higher level skills across the region – to strengthen business, improve productivity and attract inward investment.

The offer should be accessible for those in work, with more part-time, evening, weekend and hybrid delivery to fit around work and wider commitments of learners.

A place-based approach will ensure that higher-level skills opportunities are closely aligned to local/regional economic opportunities and strategies, including Plan for Growth and Investment Zones.

#### **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**

End date

23 February 2029

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

## **II.2) Description**

### **II.2.1) Title**

Innovation

Lot No

5

### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

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

NUTS codes

- UKG - West Midlands (England)

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

Whilst remaining with the overall objectives and requirements of Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support services, WMCA want the capacity and capability to innovate in the delivery of skills and employment support across the region. This innovation approach may not fit within the descriptors of the other four categories but will incorporate the space to test and learn.

The types of activities we're likely to see included, but not exclusively, are:

- AI and Data Driven Approaches
- Gamification and Immersive Learning
- Flexible and Customised Learning Paths e.g. modular, micro-credentials and badging
- Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships
- Technical Education
- Inclusive and Accessible Training Solutions for Disadvantaged Groups

- Sustainability and Green Skills
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation Skills
- Community-Based and Peer Learning Initiatives
- Test and Learn Programmes to Pilot New Training Approaches

#### **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**

End date

23 February 2029

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

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## **Section III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information**

### **III.1) Conditions for participation**

#### **III.1.1) Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers**

List and brief description of conditions

Selection Criteria for inclusion on this FPS can be found in '2. WMCA Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support FPS-Application Guidance Document'

#### **III.1.2) Economic and financial standing**

List and brief description of selection criteria

WMCA requires its FPS Providers to be in a healthy financial position, therefore a Credit Check will be undertaken on Applicant's using Creditsafe.

Applicant's are also required to not have any overdue debt with either West Midlands Combined Authority or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) / Department for Education (DfE)

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

A Credit Score of 30 and above and the absence of any overdue debt owed to WMCA or ESFA/DfE will confirm that you meet the economic and financial standing requirements.

#### **III.1.3) Technical and professional ability**

List and brief description of selection criteria

4 questions will be used to evaluate a provider's technical and professional ability to deliver Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support provision.

These questions can be found at Questions 3.3(a) to 3.3(d) of '3. WMCA Technical Education, Skills and Employment Support FPS-Selection Questionnaire'

Minimum level(s) of standards possibly required

Applicants will be required to achieve a total score across all questions of 20 or above in order to meet the minimum threshold for technical and professional ability

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

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

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

Restricted procedure

#### **IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system**

The procurement involves the setting up of a dynamic purchasing system

#### **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.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure**

Notice number: [2025/S 000-002746](#)

#### **IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate**

Date

31 March 2025

Local time

11:59pm

#### **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.3) Additional information**

WMCA will be holding a virtual Market Engagement Event via Microsoft Teams on 25th February 2025 from 1-2pm.

The aim of the event is to provide further information on the TESES FPS, including;

- An introduction to the FPS
- Our Strategy
- The FPS Specification
- How to apply to join the FPS
- Question and answer session

If you are interested in attending, please use the below link to register your attendance. Once registered, you will then be sent the link to join the event.

We strongly advise that you attend this event if you are interested in applying to join the FPS, however, if you are unable to attend, the session will be recorded and shared along with the slides afterwards.

[https://assets-gbr.mkt.dynamics.com/a3b85b0d-c453-4680-af2a-330420e03125/digitalassets/standaloneforms/3ee9558e-e002-ef11-9f89-002248c822e6?readableEventId=Market\\_Engagement\\_Event\\_Online\\_Webinar537302925](https://assets-gbr.mkt.dynamics.com/a3b85b0d-c453-4680-af2a-330420e03125/digitalassets/standaloneforms/3ee9558e-e002-ef11-9f89-002248c822e6?readableEventId=Market_Engagement_Event_Online_Webinar537302925)

If you have any questions, please email  
[EmploymentSkillsHealthCommunities@wmca.org.uk](mailto:EmploymentSkillsHealthCommunities@wmca.org.uk)

## **VI.4) Procedures for review**

### **VI.4.1) Review body**

West Midlands Combined Authority

Birmingham

Country

United Kingdom