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Planning

Soft-market testing: Communications and engagement for community, public and private sector audiences

Essex County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-007736

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-044767

Published 11 March 2024, 4:13pm

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

Telephone

+44 333

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH3 - Essex

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.2) Information about joint procurement

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

I.3) Communication

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

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

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Soft-market testing: Communications and engagement for community, public and private sector audiences

Reference number

DN714335

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 73000000 - Research and development services and related consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Essex 2055 programme helps to achieve transformational change for residents and businesses. It does this by building support for infrastructure, land and property projects - and attracting the investment required to deliver them.

Essex County Council (“ECC”) intends to procure specialist advice to support deliberative resident and business engagement, consensus building amongst politicians and partners, and promotional material and campaigns for both private sector and central government audiences.

ECC is considering how to structure this service. A survey has been created to capture insight from prospective suppliers. This survey can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/EunctGCyV2>.

At this stage, this opportunity is soft market testing only and not a call for competition. This market test exercise is to allow the Council to ascertain interest from the market, investigate potential options, and consider the best route for a potential future contract opportunity. The total budget for these requirements is estimated to be £80,000 but the number of tender opportunities will be informed by this soft market testing exercise.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £80,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 79300000 - Market and economic research; polling and statistics
- 98200000 - Equal opportunities consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Respondents are advised that the purpose of this PIN is to engage with the market and ascertain interest / feasibility and to inform the sourcing route and structure of the potential opportunity. The scope of service, date of publication or potential contract value may be amended following the conclusion of soft market testing and should not be taken as a final "version" of requirement.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 April 2024

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: Yes