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Planning

Cupar Zero Emission Bus Service

Fife Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-008188

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-032696

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Fife Council

Fife House, North Street

Glenrothes

KY7 5LT

Contact

Sarah Cutler

Email

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Telephone

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Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM72 - Clackmannanshire and Fife

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA00187

I.3) Communication

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

Cupar Zero Emission Bus Service

Reference number

TT0014

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60112000 - Public road transport services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Fife Council is keen to explore options for establishing its first zero emission bus route. The Cupar Town Bus Service (Service 68/68A/68B) is currently a Council contracted service using diesel vehicles. The route passes through one of Fife's two Air Quality Management Areas, so having zero emissions vehicles on this route would help to reduce emissions in the town centre area and strongly align with the aims of the Climate Fife Strategy and Council Plan 2017-2027. We wish to investigate models of delivery available within the marketplace and how they might be applied to the Cupar Town Service in a way that provides best value to Fife Council.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 60112000 - Public road transport services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM72 - Clackmannanshire and Fife

Main site or place of performance

Cupar, Fife

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Bus and coach emissions make up 5% of Scottish road transport emissions. The Government has a net zero target of 2045 and it is likely the sale of new diesel buses will be phased out sometime between 2030 and 2035.

Fife Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and recently published the Climate Fife 2020-2030 Strategy (https://www.fife.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/193121/ClimateActionPlan2020_summary.pdf) stating, "Fife Council wants to lead by example in our response to the climate emergency and use our procurement, assets and staff to help deliver a zero carbon and resilient Fife." Under the Sustainable Transport theme in the Strategy, two key projects are ST07 (Improve the fuel and carbon efficiency of local private sector and public transport fleets) and ST08 (Tackle problematic air quality).

Having an Air Quality Management Area in Cupar, we wish to explore options with the marketplace to make the Cupar Town Service (Service 68/68A/68B) a zero emission bus route, to contribute towards the themes of the Strategy. Discussions are likely to focus on vehicles (and ownership); fuelling/charging infrastructure (and ownership); optimum contract length; contract pricing; grant funding; vehicle use outwith hours; energy supply arrangements.

The procurement process is likely to involve a Competitive Dialogue procedure, due to the various current unknown elements listed above, hence engagement with interested suppliers will help shape bids throughout the process. We intend to issue a formal Contract Notice to start the procedure, hold discussions throughout 2022 and hopefully award the contract by Christmas 2022. This should still give sufficient time for any set-up requirements for the contract start date of Monday 14 August 2023.

We would welcome contact from suppliers who may have solutions to how we can change the current diesel operation of the Cupar Town Bus Service to a zero-emission route. Responses bind neither the Council nor the interested supplier to any contractual commitment. A response does not ensure a supplier's inclusion in any future tendering process nor does it place any supplier in an advantageous position with regard to any future procurement. Failure to respond to this Prior Information Notice (PIN) does not prohibit a future bid to the Contract Notice. As a Competitive Dialogue procedure is envisaged, interested suppliers do not have to be existing members of our Bus & Coach Dynamic Purchasing System.

The current (diesel) service specification is: Low floor; wheelchair accessible; minimum 17

seats; Monday-Saturday, hourly from approximately 0900 to 1730 and operates loops of the town via the Town Centre. View the service here:

<http://www.cartogold.co.uk/fife/map.html> > click Routes and Times > scroll and select Services 68, 68A and 68B. Total daily mileage is 100 miles. This is given for information only and could be subject to change as part of discussions, for we are keen to maximise vehicle use and would be open to looking at how it might be incorporated into also delivering Sunday / evening services.

As well as supporting the Government and Council's net zero targets, this potential procurement also supports the Council's aim (which reflects the Sustainable Procurement Duty), to improve the relevant social, environmental and economic wellbeing of our area, reducing inequality, facilitating the involvement of SME's, third sector bodies and supported businesses.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

2 May 2022

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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI). ALL RFIs WILL BE TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION AND NOT SHARED WITH ANY OTHER SUPPLIER.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at

https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=686519.

(SC Ref:686519)