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Contract

Apprenticeships Commissioning Programme Wales Framework Agreement

Welsh Government

F20: Modification notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-013885

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-045612

Published 30 April 2024, 12:58pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Welsh Government

Corporate Procurement Services, Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

Email

CPSProcurementAdvice@gov.wales

Telephone

+44 3000623300

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKL - Wales

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://wales.gov.uk/?skip=1&lang=en>

Buyer's address

https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0007

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Apprenticeships Commissioning Programme Wales Framework Agreement

Reference number

F022/2020/2021

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 80500000 - Training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKL - Wales

II.2.4) Description of the procurement at the time of conclusion of the contract:

The purpose of the Apprenticeships Commissioning Programme (“ACP”) is to support people in Wales through high quality learning, in order to provide employers with the relevant skilled people to meet the current and future needs of the Welsh economy.

Apprenticeships offer employed learners the opportunity to pursue a Foundation Apprenticeship, Apprenticeship, or Higher Apprenticeship framework. Degree Apprenticeships are excluded from this procurement.

Each framework specifies the learning activities, including, qualifications covering occupational competencies, the relevant technical knowledge, Essential Skills Wales and Employment Rights and Responsibilities (ERR).

The Client is committed to aligning the ACP to the needs of the Welsh economy as outlined in its policy and action plan published in February 2017 - Aligning the Apprenticeship model to the needs of the Welsh economy 2017. The focus is on aligning and raising the level of the skills market designed to meet employer needs with a system that is responsive to industry changes, particularly in the sectors that drive growth and prosperity. The policy reflects the step change towards higher level technical and professional skills, promoting efficiency and portability within our priority sectors.

The Welsh Government is of the view that the option to extend the framework beyond four years is likely to be desirable. Individual participants may be on a vocational Apprenticeship programme for up to four years. In the event the maximum term of the framework mirrors the maximum duration of a vocational Apprenticeship programme, this is likely to result in many apprentices having their learning disrupted as they may be obliged to transfer from an unsuccessful legacy provider to a successful bidder when a future replacement framework is procured.

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Duration in months

72

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years

Adopting a 4 year fixed term framework agreement with the ability to extend up to a maximum of 6 years should provide Welsh Government with the opportunity to limit the number of displaced apprentices that may arise if the procurement process had to be repeated more regularly.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: Yes

Identification of the project

Apprenticeships Wales is part funded by European Social Fund (ESF) money, administered under the European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Contract award notice concerning this contract

Notice number: [2021/S 079-204776](#)

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Contract No

F022/2020/2021

Title

Apprenticeships Commissioning Programme Wales Framework Agreement

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract/concession award decision:

22 March 2021

V.2.2) Information about tenders

The contract/concession has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

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

Cambrian Training Company

Coed-y-Dinas

Welshpool

SY218RP

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Cardiff & Vale College

47 Colcot Road,

Barry

CF628HJ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

ACT Training

Ocean Park House, East Tyndall Street

Cardiff

CF245ET

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Coleg Cambria

Kelsterton Road

Connah's Quay

CH54BR

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Coleg Llandrillo

Rhos on Sea

LL284HZ

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Educ8

43 Heol-y-ddol

Caerphilly

CF833JF

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

Gower College Swansea

Tycoch,

Swansea

SA29EB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

ITEC TRAINING SOLUTIONS LTD

ITEC TRAINING SOLUTIONS LTD, ITEC HOUSE PENARTH ROAD

CARDIFF

CF118TT

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

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

NEATH PORT TALBOT COLLEGE

NEATH PORT TALBOT COLLEGE, DWR-Y-FELIN RD

NEATH

SA107RF

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Pembrokeshire College

Merlins Bridge

Haverfordwest

sa611sz

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

V.2.4) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (at the time of conclusion of the contract;excluding VAT)

Total value of the procurement: £1,061,600,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

(WA Ref:141070)

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom

Section VII: Modifications to the contract/concession

VII.1) Description of the procurement after the modifications

VII.1.1) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

VII.1.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80500000 - Training services

VII.1.3) Place of performance

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

VII.1.4) Description of the procurement:

Whilst we have emerged from the impact of COVID-19 we now have a cost of living crisis therefore we have a recognised economic need to support disabled individuals into education, employment, or training during the current financial year.

The Welsh Government are therefore extending the EIS for disabled apprentices until 31 March 2025. We believe there is a need for targeted support to address employer concerns over employing a disabled person. The introduction of the Employer Incentive Payment for disabled people has been a significant factor to maintaining an increase in disabled apprenticeship starts, which have grown to over 9%. Whilst the labour market is now improving it is expected that numbers of disabled people seeking employment will rise and we therefore need to continue to offer EIS support to employers in order to help them continue to provide opportunities for disabled apprentices. We will strictly monitor the uptake of the programme. We will also reserve the right to suspend AEIS payments if it appears that demand is at risk of exceeding the available budget.

The AEIS payment supports the commitment to continue developing a culture where recruiting an apprentice becomes the norm for employers in addition to recognising the need to make apprenticeships a credible alternative to the academic route for young people.

In recognition of the administrative burden placed on lead providers in managing the Apprentice Employer Incentive payment process and collating relevant evidence to support payments, we will award providers an administration fee for each learner recruited under this incentive programme. This fee is set at GBP 100 (inclusive of VAT) per learner and will be payable in full once the learner has been employed for 4 weeks.

Further details of payments available to employers in relation to the Apprentice Employer Incentive can be found here:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway/skills-and-training-programmes/apprenticeships/funding-available>

VII.1.5) Duration of the contract, framework agreement, dynamic purchasing system or concession

Duration in months

72

VII.1.6) Information on value of the contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot/concession:

£1,061,600,000

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Cambrian Training Company

Coed-y-Dinas

Welshpool

SY218RP

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Cardiff & Vale College

47 Colcot Road,

Barry

CF628HJ

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

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ACT Training

Ocean Park House, East Tyndall Street

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Telephone

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Country

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- UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Coleg Cambria

Kelsterton Road

Connah's Quay

CH54BR

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Llandudno Road, Rhos-on-Sea

Conwy

LL284HZ

Telephone

+44 0000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Educ8

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Telephone

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- UKL - Wales

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Tycoch,

Swamsea

SA29EB

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

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CARDIFF

CF118TT

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Neath Port Talbot College

Dwr y Felin Road, Neath

Neath Port Talbot

SA107RF

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.1.7) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Pembrokeshire College

Merlins Bridge

Haverfordwest

SA611SZ

Telephone

+44 00000000000

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKL - Wales

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

VII.2) Information about modifications

VII.2.1) Description of the modifications

Nature and extent of the modifications (with indication of possible earlier changes to the contract):

The Welsh Government has extended the financial incentives to encourage employers to recruit disabled apprentices until 31 March 2025. The Welsh economy is emerging from the COVID pandemic, however with the cost-of-living crisis effecting both individuals and businesses, we believe the continuation of the AEIS for disabled apprentices is needed to help encourage employers to employ a disabled person during to current climate. We believe that the disabled AEIS is crucial in supporting employers who have been negatively impacted in the Welsh labour market.

Providers contracted under the ACP framework will be able to claim a management fee in

recognition of the additional administration needed. Providers will receive a payment of GBP 100 per apprentice supported via the AEIS. The maximum administration payment paid to providers will not exceed GBP 19,000 during financial year 2024 – 2025.

VII.2.2) Reasons for modification

Need for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor/concessionaire.

Description of the economic or technical reasons and the inconvenience or duplication of cost preventing a change of contractor:

Noting the limited duration/ value of the disabled AEIS, ACP providers are best placed to deliver for technical reasons given the relevant systems, information on employers and apprentices they have in place, to ensure efficacy of the scheme. Appointing alternative providers would result in unnecessary cost duplication, (1) setting up separate EIS administration systems, such as, data sharing agreements with the ACP providers to obtain details of the relevant employers and apprentices; (2) significant liaison with ACP providers to confirm details pertinent to each apprentice including confirming each learner has started their apprenticeship, and is employed within 14 weeks from apprenticeship start to ensure AEIS payments are paid in a timely manner. The payment to the provider of GBP100 per apprentice would not be satisfactory recompense to warrant establishing a separate framework of providers for the disabled AEIS. The maximum amount paid to ACP providers will not exceed GBP 19,000.

VII.2.3) Increase in price

Updated total contract value before the modifications (taking into account possible earlier contract modifications, price adaptations and average inflation)

Value excluding VAT: £1,061,600,000

Total contract value after the modifications

Value excluding VAT: £1,062,000,000