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Planning

## **Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure across Essex**

Essex County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-013998

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04565f

Published 1 May 2024, 10:06am

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

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

Essex County Council

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

#### **Contact**

Ms Rachel Horne

#### **Email**

[rachel.horne@essex.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.horne@essex.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 3330322307

**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.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

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## **Section II: Object**

### **II.1) Scope of the procurement**

#### **II.1.1) Title**

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure across Essex

Reference number

DN720082

#### **II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

#### **II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

#### **II.1.4) Short description**

The Council is seeking to commission provider(s) to develop and maintain a Universal Standard Support Offer to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Essex. The Council is also seeking to commission provider(s) to deliver an approach to support System Volunteering.

As part of the Council's preparatory work to inform the commissioning intentions for this project, we are holding an online Market Engagement event on Wednesday 15th May 2024 between 14:00 to 15:30. If you wish to attend, please book a maximum of two places per organisation by emailing [strengthening.communities@essex.gov.uk](mailto:strengthening.communities@essex.gov.uk).

Prospective bidders are advised that the Council will finalise the scope of the forthcoming procurement opportunity following the conclusion of the market engagement stage and reserves the right to amend the scope of this service accordingly.

For the avoidance of any further doubt, please be advised that any dates for the proposed procurement opportunity are provided for indicative purposes only and the Council reserves the right to amend this information following confirmation of the procurement timetable for this project. Full details of the structure of this procurement and associated timetable will be detailed within the corresponding Contract Notice in due course.

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

Value excluding VAT: £450,000

**II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

**II.2) Description****II.2.1) Title**

Universal Standard Support Offer (USSO)

Lot No

1

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

- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 98133100 - Civic betterment and community facility support services

**II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

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

The Council is seeking to is commission provider(s) to develop and maintain a Universal Standard Support Offer (USSO) to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Essex that allows users to self-assess and directs them to relevant, up to date and accessible business and compliance advice. The proposed contract commencement date is 1st October 2024 until 31st March 2031 with an indicative budget of £75,000 per annum and a break clause at 31st March 2028, subject to governance approval. However, prospective bidders are advised that the Council will finalise the scope of the forthcoming procurement opportunity following the conclusion of the market engagement stage and reserves the right to amend the scope of this service accordingly. For the avoidance of any further doubt, please be advised that the inclusion of lots within this PIN are provided for indicative purposes only due to the requirements of the online form and remain subject to confirmation by the Council.

**II.2) Description****II.2.1) Title**

System Volunteering

Lot No

2

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

- 98133100 - Civic betterment and community facility support services

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

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

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

The Council is looking to commission provider(s) to deliver an approach to support System Volunteering across Essex that connects up disparate programmes of volunteering, embracing digital technology and offering diverse volunteering opportunities that empower residents to participate.

The proposed contract commencement date is 1st October 2024 until 31st March 2031 with an indicative budget of £75,000 per annum and a break clause at 31st March 2028, subject to governance approval. In addition, the Council understands that there may be scope for additional funding from system partners of up to 15%, although this matter remains subject to final confirmation .

Prospective bidders are advised that the Council will finalise the scope of the forthcoming procurement opportunity including but not limited to the final budgetary position following the conclusion of the market engagement stage and reserves the right to amend the scope of this service accordingly. For the avoidance of any further doubt, please be advised that the inclusion of lots within this PIN are provided for indicative purposes only due to the requirements of the online form and remain subject to confirmation by the Council.

### **II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice**

31 May 2024

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## **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

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

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

Prospective bidders are advised that the Council will finalise the scope of the forthcoming procurement opportunity following the conclusion of the market engagement stage and reserves the right to amend the scope of this service accordingly. For the avoidance of any further doubt, please be advised that the inclusion of any lots within this PIN are provided for indicative purposes only due to the requirements of the online form and remain subject to confirmation by the Council. Likewise, the inclusion of any budgetary information and dates for the proposed procurement opportunity are provided for indicative purposes only and the Council reserves the right to amend this information following the conclusion of the respective internal governance and confirmation of the procurement timetable for this project. Full details of the structure of this procurement, the associated timetable and agreed budget will be specified in the corresponding Contract Notice in due course.

In relation to the geographical scope and potential access to the service from local partner organisations, please note that the main place of performance will be within the administrative boundaries of Essex (excluding the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock). In addition, this service will also be open to the following classification of users: NHS Healthcare (including Integrated Care Systems) both within the administrative boundaries of Essex and cross-boundary organisations.