

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/014536-2026>

Planning

Skills for Growth Open Light Touch Framework

Devon County Council

UK3: Planned procurement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-014536

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f667 ([view related notices](#))

Published 17 February 2026, 5:38pm

Scope

Reference

CP2753-25

Description

Devon County Council (DCC) intends to establish an Open Framework for commissioning the delivery of high-quality skills provision services.

The Framework will support the delivery of programmes funded through the Adult Skills Fund (ASF), Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ), Skills Bootcamps, and other future skills initiatives aligned with local and national workforce needs. The Framework will be divided into Lots based on the different programme types.

The purpose of the Framework is to enable flexible and responsive skills provision that supports adults to develop the skills needed for sustainable employment and career progression, while also meeting employer demand and contributing to economic growth.

DCC may initiate Call-Offs from both Lot 1 - ASF and FCFJ and Lot 2 Skills Bootcamps

for Wave 7 Skills Bootcamp following the appointment of Providers to the Framework.

DCC anticipates holding a Tender Launch Event via Microsoft Teams, shortly after the Invitation to Tender(ITT) is published. Details and access instructions will be included in the ITT documentation once published.

This notice is not a call for competition. Its purpose is solely to inform the market of the upcoming opportunity. The publication of this notice does not signify the commencement of any procurement process and does not constitute any commitment by the Authority to undertake any procurement exercise.

Full and final details regarding this opportunity will be provided in the Tender Notice and ITT once published.

Commercial tool

Establishes an open framework

A series of frameworks with substantially the same terms. Awarded suppliers are carried over and new suppliers can bid.

Total value (estimated)

- £120,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 9 July 2026 to 8 July 2029
- Possible extension to 8 July 2031
- 5 years

Description of possible extension:

There is an option to extend for a further 2 years.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80300000 - Higher education services
- 80400000 - Adult and other education services
- 80500000 - Training services
- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services

Contract locations

- UKK4 - Devon
-

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund(ASF) and Free Courses For Jobs (FCFJ)

Description

ASF is a core funding stream provided by the Department for Working Pensions (DWP), designed to support adult learners, aged 19+ in Devon and Torbay, in gaining essential skills and qualifications that are up to Level 2, with some Level 3 qualifications for those aged 19 - 23, to improve employability, career progression, and participation in the workforce. This includes GCSEs, awards, certificates, and diplomas in vocational and

technical subjects, and qualifications in English, Maths, and Digital.

FCFJ are targeted Level 3 qualifications, to support adults, aged 19+ in Devon and Torbay, who meet the definition of unemployed or below the earnings threshold, to develop new skills to improve their prospects in the labour market. In accordance with Department for Education (DfE) and DWP funding rules, providers must have ASF provision to be eligible to deliver FCFJ provision.

Lot value (estimated)

- £75,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2. Skills Bootcamp

Description

Skills Bootcamps funded by DWP, are short, intensive training courses (typically 8-16 weeks) focused on priority sectors and technical skills. They are employer-led, designed to fill immediate skills gaps, and must include guaranteed job interviews for participants or increased contracts for self-employed learners.

Lot value (estimated)

- £35,000,000 excluding VAT
- £35,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 3. Future Skills Projects

Description

To ensure long-term flexibility and responsiveness, the framework will also be available for commissioning provision for any new future skills projects in Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.

Lot value (estimated)

- £10,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

8 July 2031

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

Award method when using the framework

Either with or without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

The Devon and Torbay Combined Authority and Torbay Council.

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund(ASF) and Free Courses For Jobs (FCFJ)

Lot 2. Skills Bootcamp

Lot 3. Future Skills Projects

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

9 March 2026

Enquiry deadline

27 March 2026, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

8 April 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Tenders must be submitted via

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

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

26 June 2026

Award criteria

| Name | Type | Weighting |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| Quality | Quality | 100% |

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)
-

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Devon County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJRC-4623-RJBH

County Hall, Topsham Road,

Exeter,

EX2 4QD

United Kingdom

Email: procurement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Website: <https://devon.gov.uk>

Region: UKK43 - Devon CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government