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Award

Ambitious Essex Enhanced Growth Hub

Essex County Council

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-014538

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0588ec ([view related notices](#))

Published 17 February 2026, 6:01pm

Scope

Reference

PL0117

Description

Essex County Council (ECC) are seeking to award contract of the Enhanced Growth Hub with Additional Business Support on 1st April 2026.

The service, working closely with the Government funded Growth Hub, will help provide the front door for businesses seeking advice and support in the County, enabling them to have the knowledge necessary to achieve growth and prosperity as well as access to business finance. The area covered by the service will be the Ceremonial County of Essex, including Southend and Thurrock Unitary Authority areas.

Contract 1

Supplier

- SMARTER SOCIETY LIMITED

Contract value

- £1,140,000 excluding VAT
- £1,368,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

17 February 2026

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

17 February 2026

Standstill period

- End: 26 February 2026
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

27 February 2026

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029
- 3 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 66000000 - Financial and insurance services
- 79000000 - Business services: law, marketing, consulting, recruitment, printing and security

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex

Information about tenders

- 6 tenders received
- 6 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 6 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 5 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

SMARTER SOCIETY LIMITED

- Companies House: 09874339
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBHL-3297-PYVX

27 Old Gloucester Street

London

WC1N 3AX

United Kingdom

Email: hello@smartersociety.org

Website: <https://www.smartersociety.org>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Email: abbey.wellington@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government