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Planning

## **NEPO311 Water Retail Services**

THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS LIMITED

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-015569

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-045a16

Published 16 May 2024, 1:01pm

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

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

THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS LIMITED

Durham County Council, C/o Ros Layfield, Legal & Democr

DURHAM

DH15UL

#### **Contact**

Laura Kyle

#### **Email**

[energy@nepo.org](mailto:energy@nepo.org)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1916380040

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Justification for not providing organisation identifier**

Not on any register

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

[www.nepo.org](http://www.nepo.org)

**I.2) Information about joint procurement**

The contract is awarded by a central purchasing body

**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**

NEPO311 Water Retail Services

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

- 65100000 - Water distribution and related services

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

Services

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

NEPO seeks to procure a Framework Agreement for Water Retail Services. The purpose of this PIN is to provide prior information to the market on the intentions of NEPO to procure such a Framework Agreement. This notice also provides an open invite to Market Consultation meetings.

NEPO intend to hold Market Consultation meetings with suppliers prior to this procurement project. The Market Consultation meetings are advertised openly using this notice.

The Market Consultation Questionnaire will be made accessible via the Open eTendering system on Thursday 16th May 2024 with a submission deadline of 12 p.m. Thursday 30th May 2024.

Suppliers wishing to access and complete the Market Consultation Questionnaire must first register on the eTendering system using the following link <https://www.open-uk.org>

Within the Soft Market Testing Questionnaire, Suppliers will be given the opportunity to register for a market consultation meeting via an Eventbrite Link.

Market consultation meetings are limited in number and will take place the week commencing Monday 3rd June 2024. Appointments will be no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes, and NEPO intend to conduct these sessions virtually through online meeting platform applications. NEPO anticipates these virtual meeting sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams or other secure meeting platforms. The time and location of each appointment will be confirmed following the registration deadline and places will be secured on a first come first serve basis via the Eventbrite Link. NEPO reserves the right

to seek assurances from interested suppliers prior to allocating a place.

Attendance at market consultation is optional and does not provide suppliers with an advantage in any future related procurement. Attendance also does not constitute as an intention to tender for any future related procurement. Please note the above dates may be subject to change depending on availability and supplier uptake.

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

Value excluding VAT: £85,000,000

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

### **II.2) Description**

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

- 65000000 - Public utilities
- 71800000 - Consulting services for water-supply and waste consultancy

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

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

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

The Framework Agreement is intended to capture the provision of Water Retail Services, including billing, customer service, the management of the water wholesaler relationship and water meter readings.

The Framework Agreement will also include provisions for assisting Member Authorities to reduce consumption, supporting Member Authorities' own energy efficiency aims. The inclusion of ancillary services such as Automated Meter Reading (AMR), leak detection and site audits reflects the opportunities available for Member Authorities to secure savings and added value through efficient water and wastewater management.

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

23 September 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

NEPO is a Central Purchasing Body as defined in the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR15). The agreement will be available for use by all NEPO Members. A list of member organisations is available in the About section of the NEPO website at: [www.nepo.org](http://www.nepo.org)

This agreement will also be made available to all current and future NEPO Associate Members. Current Associate Members are listed in the Associate Member section of the NEPO website at: [www.nepo.org/associate-membership/list](http://www.nepo.org/associate-membership/list)

NEPO intends to make the resulting agreement available for use by all Contracting Authorities throughout all administrative regions of the UK (as defined by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015) including but not limited to Government Departments and their Agencies, Non-Departmental Public Bodies, Central Government, NHS Bodies, Local Authorities, Emergency Services, Coastguard Emergency Services, Educational Establishments, Registered Social Landlords and Registered Charities who have a need to purchase the above services.

Please see the following websites for further details:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/check-a-university-is-officially-recognised/recognised-bodies>

<http://www.schoolswebdirectory.co.uk/localauthorities.php>

<http://www.ukschoolsdirectory.net>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-school-in-england>

<https://education.gov.scot/ParentZone>

<http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-academies-and-academy-projects-in-development>

<http://unistats.direct.gov.uk/institutions/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/heis/>

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/workprovide/unicoll/fecs/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/ServiceDirectories/Pages/AcuteTrustListing.aspx>

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/nhswalesaboutus/structure>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/TheService/organised.aspx>

<http://www.hscni.net/index.php?link=trusts>

<http://www.scottishambulance.com/AboutUs/HowWeOrganised.aspx>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/A-ZOfCentralGovernment/index.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/gov.htm>

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/local-councils-in-northern-ireland>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/02/2421/1>

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/contact>

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/articles/list-public-bodies-which-ni-public-procurement-policy-applies>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/>

<https://www.police.uk/forces/>

<http://www.police-information.co.uk/index.html>

<http://www.psnipolice.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

<http://www.fireservice.co.uk/information/ukfrs>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/archive/law-order/Police/PoliceServiceofScotland>

<http://www.fire.org.uk/fire-brigades.html>

<http://www.nifrs.org/areas-districts/>

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area.aspx>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-registered-providers-of-social-housing>

<http://directory.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk/pages/default.aspx>

<https://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/publications/registered-social-landlords-in-wales/?lang=en>

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/housing-associations>

[http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/About\\_us/Regulation/Registering\\_charities\\_index.aspx](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/About_us/Regulation/Registering_charities_index.aspx)

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

<https://idea.org.uk/>

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx>

[http://www.sell2wales.gov.uk/Search/search\\_Auth.aspx](http://www.sell2wales.gov.uk/Search/search_Auth.aspx)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/newsroom/factsandfigures/housingplanning1/facts/socialhousing/?id=1822644>

A complete list of permissible users is shown on the NEPO website below:

<https://www.nepo.org/associate-membership/permissible-users>

Organisations wishing to access the NEPO agreement will be required to register as a NEPO Associate Member in the first instance.

Further information can be found at: [www.nepo.org](http://www.nepo.org)