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Planning

Provision of a new Technical Advisory Service

DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-017557

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-034b3b

Published 27 June 2022, 5:29pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

2 Marsham Street

LONDON

SW1P4DF

Contact

Emily Wolfe

Email

emily.wolfe@levellingup.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKI32 - Westminster

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>

I.3) Communication

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Housing and community amenities

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of a new Technical Advisory Service

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71241000 - Feasibility study, advisory service, analysis

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This Pre-Tender Market Engagement (PTME) seeks information in preparation for the potential procurement of a new Technical Advisory Service.

Please review the PTME document attached and provide your response via email to the

following mailbox: commercial@levellingup.gov.uk by 17:00 at 8th July 2022

The PTME document is available at:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/45928c53-9c58-4ef4-9d58-546131ae51fd>

or on request by contacting: commercial@levellingup.gov.uk

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £250,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The service will respond to queries raised by auditors working on particularly complex local audit cases, ie this includes providing external audits to local bodies including local authorities, local drainage boards, national park authorities, waste authorities, etc.

The specialist technical advisory service to local auditors will respond to a wide range of difficult or complex audit queries such as - but not limited to:

- advice to assist auditors on how to respond to electors' objections
- assistance with such issues as how and when to produce a public interest report or a statutory recommendation
- advice on performance audit issues (for VfM arrangements).

II.2.14) Additional information

The contract being sought will oversee the start-up of a separate, standalone but central Technical Advisory Service to bolster the capability of auditors, by providing a mechanism for guaranteeing and supplementing the level of skills across the sector market, as well as

quality assuring the response to individual cases.

It will be particularly useful for new or challenger firms, where these firms do not have a developed public sector technical service. We are seeking proposals from tenderers that can demonstrate the necessary expertise to:

- source personnel with the expertise and experience to answer queries raised with the Advisory Service
- act as a central contact point for the Advisory Service, coordinating and allocating queries from a range of audit firms and distributing them to appointed personnel
- establish an agile, digital systems along with the necessary protocols and administration to record, manage, monitor and store queries, and enable the smooth interface with clients
- ensure expert information or advice is provided in a timely fashion;
- represent the sector, co-ordinate views and offer leadership as well as steering the sector in dealings with outside stakeholders, including Government;
- oversee and implement the roll out of the training qualification to top up the credentials of auditors along with widening the pool of Key Audit Partners. This will involve initially setting up the digital platforms to allow the courses to be delivered to candidates. The tenderer will also need to successfully negotiate with the sector ongoing support and funding of the service, which is envisaged to be charged to the candidates who apply to go on the courses

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

1 August 2022

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: No