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Award

## **South Midlands Connect to Work Programme (West Northants area)**

West Northamptonshire Council

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

Notice identifier: 2026/S 000-017606

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f50e ([view related notices](#))

Published 26 February 2026, 5:39pm

### **Scope**

### **Reference**

WNC00000569

### **Description**

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) sought experienced delivery partners to implement the South Midlands Connect to Work Programme in West Northamptonshire.

Information on the Connect to Work Grant Guidance for England can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/connect-to-work/connect-to-work-grant-guidance-for-england>

Connect to Work is a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) initiative supporting people with disabilities or long-term health conditions to find and sustain employment. It forms part of the UK Government's Get Britain Working strategy to reduce economic inactivity and promote inclusive growth.

The Connect to Work programme aims to support 1565 economically inactive residents in

West Northamptonshire over the next five years by delivering personalised support, including employability training, confidence building, and workplace adjustment advice, increasing awareness and access to local job opportunities, identifying and addressing barriers to employment for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions, reducing economic inactivity and reliance on other services through sustained employment, promoting diversity and inclusion among local employers and working collaboratively with other South Midlands local authorities.

This funding is allocated to the South Midlands Partnership region. WNC is the accountable body for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes, North Northamptonshire, and West Northamptonshire. This tender relates specifically to West Northamptonshire.

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## **Contract 1**

### **Supplier**

- [Acorn Training Ltd](#)

### **Contract value**

- £1,422,033 excluding VAT
- £1,706,439.60 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Award decision date**

26 February 2026

## **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

26 February 2026

## **Standstill period**

- End: 11 March 2026
- 10 working days

## **Earliest date the contract will be signed**

31 March 2026

## **Contract dates (estimated)**

- 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2030
- 4 years

## **Main procurement category**

Services

## **CPV classifications**

- 80500000 - Training services
- 85000000 - Health and social work services
- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services

- 98110000 - Services furnished by business, professional and specialist organisations
- 79600000 - Recruitment services
- 79611000 - Job search services
- 80000000 - Education and training services

## **Contract locations**

- UKF24 - West Northamptonshire
- 

## **Information about tenders**

- 3 tenders received
  - 2 tenders assessed in the final stage:
    - 2 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
    - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 1 supplier awarded contracts
  - 1 supplier unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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## **Procedure**

### **Procedure type**

Open procedure

## Special regime

Light touch

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## Supplier

### Acorn Training Ltd

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYXH-7493-PTMT

8 Picadilly Arcade

Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

ST1 1DL

United Kingdom

Email: [siobhan.clegg@acorntraining.co.uk](mailto:siobhan.clegg@acorntraining.co.uk)

Region: UKG23 - Stoke-on-Trent

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

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## Contracting authority

### West Northamptonshire Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGDV-8944-CMBP

Angel Street

Northampton

NN1 1ED

United Kingdom

Contact name: Claire Baker

Email: [procurement@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Website: <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/wnc/asp/Home>

Region: UKF24 - West Northamptonshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government