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Award

## **Agreement for the Provision of Community Welfare Advice Services in Northumberland**

Northumberland County Council

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-021347

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-0358c1

Published 4 August 2022, 8:20am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

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

Northumberland County Council

County Hall

Morpeth

NE61 2EF

#### **Contact**

Mrs Leanne Stewart

#### **Email**

[leanne.stewart@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:leanne.stewart@northumberland.gov.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 7500065690

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**Region code**

UKC21 - Northumberland

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk>

**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**

Agreement for the Provision of Community Welfare Advice Services in Northumberland

Reference number

DN622421

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

The Council intends to enter into a contract with Citizens Advice Northumberland to provide free advice to people across the County of Northumberland on a wide range of topics, including (but not limited to) debt, employment, consumer rights and housing. The service will contribute to preventing and reducing the problems faced by people living or working in Northumberland, including people who are homeless, that can be influenced by advice services. The Service will be delivered from Citizen Advice Northumberland's existing county wide office / outreach provision, in areas and venues where it can have the widest reach and most impact, with particular attention to communities experiencing higher levels of deprivation

**II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

**II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £1,820,000

**II.2) Description****II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKC21 - Northumberland

Main site or place of performance

Northumberland

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

The award of this contract is being made under Regulation 32(2)(b)(ii).

The Council intends to award a contract, subject to a 10-day standstill period, without prior publication of a contract notice.

In compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, all awards of contracts that are subject to UK Procurement Directives are subject to a mandatory "standstill" period of at least 10 days. A Contract cannot be entered into with the preferred provider until at least the eleventh calendar day following notification. The standstill period is expected to end at midnight at the end of 15th August 2022. If steps are taken during this period to suggest that there may be a formal legal challenge to this award, or the Council determines an

issue/concern with the process or preferred submission, then the contract award may be suspended until the matter is resolved (or not concluded if the matter cannot be resolved).

Subject to no legal challenge being received, the Council intends to execute the Contract at the conclusion of the standstill period on Tuesday 9th August 2022.

A contract will be entered into with Citizens Advice, Northumberland for a period of three years starting 1st October 2022 and ending on 30th September 2024. There will be an optional extension available for a further 18 months.

A copy of the contract is available at the following link:

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/ap/w-59584e83/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnorthumberland365.sharepoint.com%2F%3Aw%3A%2Fs%2FStaffPortal%2FEbPf9U6odylOIm1-AxpPCgYBgCURZwMTms2Dxm-qw6H7JQ%3Fe%3DyNSqUh&data=05%7C01%7CDaniel.Warnock%40northumberland.gov.uk%7Ca55ba88cd9184d880b1408da75833534%7Cbb13a9de829042f0a980dc3bdfe70f40%7C0%7C0%7C637951503630349081%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nvapRZfNp1HuhP24z0XxFKH34ao6CWD0gHkB%2FoKz%2Bsl%3D&reserved=0>

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The Council seeks to secure a single service provider able to deliver throughout the County free to access, confidential advice and information on a range of topics that include but are not limited to debt, employment, consumer rights, benefits and housing. Market research has identified only one Provider able to meet the need and deliver across the whole of the County to ensure a consistent and joined up approach. Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau are known locally as Citizens Advice Northumberland and deliver their service throughout the County on a universal basis via 8 main offices and supported by additional outreach venues. The contract requires the existing provision to be maintained or improved and for consultation regarding relocation of any office. The service operates under a national framework operated by the Citizens Advice Bureau to confirm fidelity to its model and offering oversight for the standard of the advice provided. Whilst other organisations may be able to offer advice the scope is limited to specific topic(s) and/or aimed at a specific group or locality. There is no other organisation able to provide the breadth of knowledge, reach in terms of population, and delivery infrastructure across the whole of the County, which is underpinned by a quality assurance framework, to be able to deliver the service sought..

#### **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 V. Award of contract/concession**

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

29 July 2022

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Northumbrian Citizens Advice Bureau

Unit 6, Sovereign House, Lennep Way, Jubilee Industrial Estate

Ashington

NE638UG

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKC21 - Northumberland

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

Yes

#### **V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,820,000

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

Royal Courts of Justice

Strand

London

WC2A2LL

Country

United Kingdom