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Planning

Connect to Work Delivery

Hampshire County Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-021763

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051484

Published 15 May 2025, 1:57pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Hampshire County Council

The Castle, High Street

Winchester

SO238UJ

Email

Procurement.Support@hants.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ36 - Central Hampshire

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://in-tendhost.co.uk/hampshire.aspx/Home>

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

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Connect to Work Delivery

Reference number

HA21827 / HA26961

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 800000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to notify interested parties of a future procurement opportunity relating to 'Connect to Work' and invite suppliers to an online market engagement session.

Subject to a Grant Funding Agreement from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Hampshire County Council (HCC) aims to use the evidence-based Supported Employment 'place, train and maintain' model to support disabled people, those with health conditions and specified disadvantaged groups with multiple and complex barriers, to gain and maintain or retain employment.

For clarity, this opportunity will be a Call-Off from the existing Open Framework for Skills Development for Hampshire 2023-2033 (procured under the Public Contract Regulations 2015) and will not be an openly advertised tender opportunity. Suppliers can join the framework at any time, but only suppliers who have successfully been appointed to the framework by the date of publishing the opportunity, will be eligible to submit a tender.

Market Engagement Event - Hampshire County Council is the Accountable Body (AB) for Connect to Work for the full geographical area of the County, excluding the area covered by the unitary authorities of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. HCC will be hosting a pre-market engagement event with key partners, stakeholders and interested parties prior to official procurement activities to support shaping our approach to commissioning the programme.

The purpose of this online session is to provide a high-level overview of our approach to the Connect to Work commissioning process, specification, and timescales.

Once Connect to Work has gone live across Hampshire this Autumn, the Connect to Work Contract Management Team will support and challenge delivery providers to meet contracted profiles enabling HCC to scale up delivery. This will be a 5-year Delivery programme ending in March 2030, so anticipate the contact duration to be around 4 years and 8 months. The estimated maximum value of the call-off contracts will be approximately between £15-20million, subject to DWP approval.

Project Timescales - The Call-Off from the Skills Open Framework is anticipated to be published in the Summer 2025 and will run for approximately 30 days.

Interested suppliers will need to apply and be accepted on to the Skills Open Framework in order to be invited to tender. Please visit <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/hampshire.aspx/ProjectManage/21827> for more information and click 'Express Interest' in preparation for the future opportunity.

This Prior Information Notice (PIN) is to notify interested parties of a future procurement opportunity under an existing framework procured under the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Further details can be found in the Additional Information under Sections 11.2.4 and VI.3 of this notice.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

The contracting authority reserves the right to award contracts combining the following lots or groups of lots:

The market engagement event will be used to shape our approach to the lotting structure, the number of lots is subject to change.

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 75131000 - Government services
- 79611000 - Job search services
- 79632000 - Personnel-training services
- 79634000 - Career guidance services
- 80400000 - Adult and other education services
- 80510000 - Specialist training services
- 80521000 - Training programme services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ35 - South Hampshire
- UKJ36 - Central Hampshire
- UKJ37 - North Hampshire

Main site or place of performance

The offer will cover the Hampshire County Council local authority area, excluding the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Please note: This notice is to inform the market of an upcoming procurement opportunity. The procurement will be managed via the Council's e-tendering system (In-tend).

HCC anticipates to contract with a variety of experienced supported employment delivery providers via a call-off with lots yet to be determined, from the HCC Skills Open Framework. The offer will cover the Hampshire County Council local authority area, excluding the unitary authority areas of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. The offer will not be open to other Authorities to access.

II.2.14) Additional information

The market engagement event will be used to shape our approach to the lotting structure, the number of lots is subject to change.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

31 July 2025

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

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Hampshire County Council would like to invite key partners, stakeholders and interested parties to an online market engagement session to help inform the Council's future commissioning arrangements for Connect to Work.

The session will be a maximum of 1 hour and will cover;

- Overview of Connect to Work
- Hampshire County Council's proposed approach
- Contracting options
- Tendering process including indicative timescales.
- Q&A Opportunity

The session will take place on 10 June 2025 at 10:00am and be held via MS Teams.

Suppliers wishing to attend should register using the following link:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/76a46d75-ebe0-41e7-9f09-b9954da56165@3f81d8b5-ee07-4c17-869c-1db439018d9b>

Suppliers are encouraged to register well in advance of the event start date/time.

For clarity, opportunity will result in a Call-Off from the existing Open Framework for Skills Development for Hampshire 2023-2033 (procured under the Public Contract Regulations 2015) and will not be an openly advertised tender opportunity. Suppliers can join the framework at any time, but only suppliers who have successfully been appointed to the framework by the date of publishing the opportunity, will be eligible to submit a tender. For suppliers wishing to get onboarded on to the Open Skills Framework, please visit the following link for guidance - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/business/open-framework#step-1>