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Award

Employment of Environmental Protection & Housing Team Consultant from Oyster Partnership

North Hertfordshire District Council

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-021766

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-047d9f

Published 16 July 2024, 11:01am

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

North Hertfordshire District Council

Council Offices, Gernon Road

LETCHWORTH

SG63JF

Contact

Procurement Team

Email

Procurement.Team@north-herts.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1462474000

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/>

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

Employment of Environmental Protection & Housing Team Consultant from Oyster Partnership

Reference number

NHDC0123155

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 90720000 - Environmental protection

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Appointment of specialist consultant via Oyster Partnership to provide expert consultancy support for managing the Environmental Protection and Housing Team (EP&H) of Environmental Health division of North Herts Council.

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: £377,266

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH - East of England

Main site or place of performance

North Hertfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Authorisation in line with the Single Tender Process as per rule 14.4 c(i) and 14.8 of the Council's Contract Procurement Rules with regard to the retrospective and continuing appointment of consultant via Oyster Partnership to provide expert consultancy support for managing the Environmental Protection and Housing Team (the Team) of Environmental Health of North Herts Council. Consultant will hold the role of Environmental Protection and Housing Manager (Acting). Consultant has been employed by the Council in this role since October 2022 initially to provide assistance to the EP&H Manager as part of her phased return to work following a sickness absence. This appointment has since changed such that he now fully manages the EP&H Team (the Team).

There is a long history that the Council's Team has of not being able to appoint officers into its employment, and the critical nature of this post that is essential in the operational management of the Team, to facilitate the development of the Team and officers currently in post, and to allow the Council to meet its statutory duties in relation to the work of the EP&H team.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Negotiated without a prior call for competition

- The works, supplies or services can be provided only by a particular economic operator for the following reason:
 - absence of competition for technical reasons

Explanation:

Consultant has successfully worked in the role and within this capacity under the necessary terms of employment required by North Herts Council since October 2022. The post he currently holds is critical to the Council, and that failure to continue with his contract will pose a significant detriment to Environmental Health in particular, but to the Council as a whole. Due to the structure of the Team, the operational role played by the Manager is critical and without Consultant in post, the Team could not operate in an effective or compliant manner. It would be difficult to replace him in the role, due to the approximately 3 to 6 months that would be required to identify, interview, appoint and then train an alternative suitable Consultant, therefore it is not possible for the Council to accommodate such a void for this length of time. This will safeguard the Council if the previous difficulties in employing officers continue. It is nationally recognised that there is a lack of experienced and competent officers working in the Environmental Health sector, and due to the required nature of this post, the post-holder will have to be competent in all aspects of the work of the Team, which means that being able to identify and then appoint such an officer will be harder. The consultant has proven himself to be technically compliant in all respects and meet the rigours of the Council's requirements.

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

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

11 July 2024

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

Oyster Partnership

2nd Floor 64 North Row

London

W1K 7DA

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

Companies House

05020374

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: £377,266

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Legal Team- North Hertfordshire District Council

Letchworth Garden City

SG6 3JF

Country

United Kingdom