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Planning

Special Educational Needs Home to School Transport Service - Soft Market Testing

Oldham Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2021/S 000-026044

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-02ed29

Published 19 October 2021, 9:03am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Oldham Council

Civic Centre, West Street

Oldham

OL1 1UT

Contact

Mrs Emily Molden

Email

emily.molden@oldham.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKD - North West (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

I.3) Communication

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

<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>

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

Special Educational Needs Home to School Transport Service - Soft Market Testing

Reference number

DN576806

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 60170000 - Hire of passenger transport vehicles with driver

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Oldham Council provides many services to serve the residents of the borough, one of which is the home to school transport service for children with special educational needs.

This is a statutory service and is to provide travel assistance for pupils who because of their special educational needs, disability or mobility difficulties cannot reasonably be expected to walk to their nearest qualifying school.

As part of the tender process for a new contract (to start from 1st September 2022) the Council wishes to undertake soft market testing. The purpose of the testing is to allow the Council an opportunity to refine its current working contract methodology and shape our proposal for a potential formal tender process.

Organisations are also invited to a Supplier Engagement Event, more details can be found on the Chest portal (<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>) under reference DN576811.

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £12,600,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD - North West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The SEN Transport Team provides the current provision for Home to School Transport. The service currently transports approximately 800 pupils with either special educational needs, disabilities or because of their mobility issues, they cannot be expected to walk to school. This results in approximately 200 routes per day.

The service operates over 190 school days as determined by the School Holidays Calendar, published by Oldham Family Information Service considering other occasional days determined by individual schools governing bodies. All pupils with SEN are provided with free travel assistance, in accordance with the Council's current Home to School Transport Policy (March 2018), IPSEA Legal guidance and the Education Act 1996.

The provision of transport is determined by the needs of the individual pupil. Those with severe and complex health, physical or educational needs can be transported by either individual taxis or adapted vehicles. Children or young people with less severe needs ordinarily travel via a multi-passenger minibus.

SEN Transport Policy aims are to ensure that all pupils who are eligible to access transport, will receive the appropriate provision which meets the identified needs of each individual child or young person. When assigning the appropriate provision to be provided, the Transport Moderation panel consistently applies the following principles:

- The aim of the service is to support parents, not absolve them of their responsibility to ensure their child attends school on time with regular attendance.
- The SEN Transport team ensures all arrangements put in place shall be cost-effective, so the Authority receives value for money.
- Wherever possible, the provision provided will look to build and promote independence, to help prepare children and young people for later life.
- The health, safety and well-being of the children and young people will remain paramount.

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £12,600,000

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

22 November 2021

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

