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Planning

Preliminary Engagement Notice - Closing the Gap - VCSE Infrastructure Support

Reading Borough Council

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-029027

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-052a51

Published 2 June 2025, 10:23am

Scope

Reference

RBC 00002278

Description

Closing the Gap (CTG) is a contract opportunity for providers to deliver preventative community-based services. As part of this we currently commission an Infrastructure Support Service to support to the local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises.

We plan to re-procure this service towards the end of 2025 with the intention of starting the new contract on the 1st April 2025.

The contract value for this service is expected to be £130,000 per annum for up to 5 years for a total value of £650,000.

Engaging with providers is a key part of developing what this service will look like. As such, we are holding an engagement session to share our procurement timetable and draft service specification. This will be an opportunity for us to gather feedback which will shape the final service.

The draft service specification being shared has been based on learning from the current Closing the Gap service, a Needs Analysis, feedback from stakeholders, a working group of cross-council colleagues and external stakeholders and consultations with funding stakeholders regarding alignment to funding outcome requirements.

This engagement session will be held via Teams on June 12th at 12:00 am.

Please reply via a correspondence message via the Reading Borough Council In-Tend system to this notice with any email addresses you wish to be sent an invitation to this meeting.

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 April 2026 to 1 April 2029
- Possible extension to 1 April 2031
- 5 years, 1 day

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 85320000 - Social services
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Engagement

Engagement deadline

13 June 2025

Engagement process description

This engagement session will be held via Teams on June 12th at 12:00 am.

Please reply via a correspondence message via the Reading Borough Council In-Tend system to this notice with any email addresses you wish to be sent an invitation to this meeting.

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

1 November 2025

Contracting authority

Reading Borough Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWBJ-9435-VXQQ

Bridge Street

Reading

RG1 2LU

United Kingdom

Email: pchub@reading.gov.uk

Region: UKJ11 - Berkshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government