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Contract

T2407b - Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service ‘NIESS’ Framework A (preferred Contractors) Engage and Foundation

Belfast City Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-029556

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03923a

Published 6 October 2023, 2:46pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Belfast City Council

9 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8DJ

Email

cps@belfastcity.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKN06 - Belfast

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.belfastcity.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

T2407b - Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service 'NIESS' Framework A (preferred Contractors) Engage and Foundation

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79400000 - Business and management consultancy and related services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The Local Authorities in Northern Ireland have developed a new enterprise support service 'ESS' which aims to put in place a more ambitious approach to the delivery of start-up and growth support which seeks to revamp the current offer and increase the number, survival and growth rates of new businesses across the region. The service aims to provide a set of connected ESS where individuals, entrepreneurs or businesses can access a continuum of support to meet their needs, aligned with the relevant stage of their business.

Given the varying needs of the individuals, entrepreneurs and businesses that will likely engage with this service across the business lifecycle, the Local Authorities have identified a need to put in place a framework which will:

- Be proactive and flexible to address market needs.
- Incentivise market development activity.
- Provide a core programme of service delivery across the region.
- Provide access to specialists in certain sectors / target groups.
- Be flexible in responding to future variability in demand and funding.
- Provide quality services that meet user needs; and
- Support the Local Authorities strategic ambitions aligned with The Northern Ireland Draft

Programme for Government, 10x Economy – Northern Ireland’s Decade of Innovation, Economy 2030, draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland, Invest NI’s forward business plans, the City/Growth deals, and inclusive growth focus of the individual Council community plans.

The NIESS is comprised of the following three frameworks/ contracts which have been procured separately:

- i. NIESS Framework A (preferred Contractors) – Growth and Scaling;
- ii. NIESS Framework A (preferred Contractors) – Engage and Foundation; and
- iii. NIESS Framework B (Subject Matter Experts and Sector Experts);

This procurement relates to the award of a contract to a Contractor for the regional delivery of the NIESS Framework A (preferred Contractors) covering the Engage and Foundation requirement.

The other 10 Local Authorities (Contract Users) included are:

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council - Enniskillen Office

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Mid Ulster District Council - Dungannon

Newry, Mourne and Down District 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: £12,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKN - Northern Ireland

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This relates to the procurement for a contractor to deliver enterprise support services across Northern Ireland – with a focus on activities related to the “Engage” and “Foundation” stages. The core services to be delivered include recruitment of eligible businesses and individuals interested in starting a business, support with the development of start-up business plans and delivery of a package of support to include one-to-one coaching/advice sessions, one to many masterclasses and establishment of peer support networks. All activities are underpinned by robust management and reporting mechanisms to comply with funding requirements.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality criteria - Market Development, Programme Planning, Partnership Development and Resource Management / Weighting: 18

Quality criterion - Name: Quality criteria - Participant Recruitment, Diagnostic Services and Operational Delivery / Weighting: 25

Quality criterion - Name: Quality criteria - Resource Plan / Weighting: 14

Quality criterion - Name: Quality criteria - Performance, Management and Reporting / Weighting: 8

Quality criterion - Name: Cost / Weighting: 20

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 15

Price - Weighting: 20

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: Yes

Description of options

The Contract shall be effective from the date of award for an initial period up to 31st March 2025 (approx. 18 months based on contract start date of 1st October 2023).

The Council reserves the right to extend/renew the Contract up to a further 30 months (1 year + 1 year + 6 months). Total Contract Period including all extension options is 4 years (48 months).

Any extension may be subject to further approval by the Council (including other Local Authorities) and funders, availability of funding and satisfactory performance of the Contractor.

Funding has been secured for service activity up to 31 March 2025 initially. Any activity following this date will be subject to securing additional funding.

The appointed Bidder must have the potential to scale up or down to meet demand and availability of future funding.

As such there is no guarantee of any delivery post the 31st March 2025 until funding has been secured.

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2022/S 000-035769](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

T2407b

Title

Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service 'NIESS' Framework A (preferred Contractors)
Engage and Foundation

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

18 September 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Enterprise Northern Ireland

Limavady

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKN - Northern Ireland

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £12,000,000

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be subcontracted

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Royal Courts of Justice

Belfast

BT1 3JF

Country

United Kingdom