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Contract

UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) & Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Supporting Local Business

Central Bedfordshire Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-030202

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-040ba2

Published 13 October 2023, 10:25am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Central Bedfordshire Council

Monks Walk, Chicksands

SHEFFORD

SG175TQ

Contact

Alec Edgar

Email

Alec.Edgar@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3003006182

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH25 - Central Bedfordshire

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.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**

UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) & Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Supporting Local Business

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 79411100 - Business development consultancy services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was launched by the government in 2022 and is central to its 'levelling up' agenda, with £2.6 billion of funding set aside nationally for local investment by March 2025. The Government's aim of the fund is to invest in domestic priorities by targeting funding where it is needed most - building pride in place - supporting high-quality skills, training and pay and investing in employment opportunities, innovation and productivity.

Central Bedfordshire Council was allocated funding through both UKSPF and also the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) through an addendum to deliver projects in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The Council has committed some of this funding to the Supporting Local business theme, which aims to create jobs and boost community cohesion through investment in existing industries and institutions, support for those starting businesses, sharing knowledge and expertise, improvement in retail, hospitality and leisure facilities, networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth

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: £2,063,575

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH25 - Central Bedfordshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Delivery of the following 5 Supporting Local Businesses interventions:

Summary of each intervention Project:

E21: Business Innovation - Engagement and provision of innovation and technological support to Central Bedfordshire Businesses with the intention of improving their performance. Enterprises will receive expert business advice, guidance, training and mentoring to support them with improved productivity, and assistance to adopt new or improved products or services.

E24A: Business Start Up & Entrepreneurship (including support for Social Enterprises) - This intervention is to support Entrepreneurship (those in the process of starting up) & Start Up businesses (including social enterprises). Delivery will be aimed at assisting potential entrepreneurs to be business ready/self-employment and resulting in businesses being set up as a result of support received as well as newly established businesses

E24B: Business Growth - Scale up & Resilience - Supporting established businesses with growth potential through the adoption of new or improved products or services

E28: Export Support with Grants - Delivery of export-readiness activity as a result of UKSPF support, resulting in local businesses engaged in new markets following support.

Export Grants to support Businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment

Support for businesses in developing their export strategy

E29: Local Business De-carbonisation - Delivery Supporting decarbonisation, net zero initiatives and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy through direct advice, guidance, mentoring and training resulting in a new or improved de-carbonisation/net zero plan.

Overall - All Supporting local business Interventions to be underpinned by: Direct business support, advice, guidance, mentoring and training

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

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

The procurement involves the provision of highly specialised professional services.

The aim is to partner with experienced, specialised local business support intermediaries who understand the local geography, have existing relationships with the local SME community and who are best placed to engage with eligible businesses at pace, deliver high quality support across the 5 interventions (innovation, entrepreneurship, business growth, exporting and decarbonisation) alongside capital grant delivery to enhance the tangible impacts.

There is a significant possibility that any underspend from the current financial year may not be carried forwarded to next year, based on current guidance from Government. This could result in a substantial loss of funding and much needed support for our business community. By enabling partnership with local organisations, we are maximising spend in 2023/24 and reducing the risk of losing funding from Government.

Within Central Bedfordshire, we have existing, highly specialised business support intermediaries who have significant relationships with our business community and understand the local geography and SME ecosystem to enable them to deliver at pace.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Business Innovation

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 October 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

University of Bedfordshire

Luton

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH21 - Luton

UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number)

10007152

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £461,450.54

Total value of the contract/lot: £461,450.54

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Export support

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 October 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

Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

Luton

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH21 - Luton

Companies House

00153360

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £178,931.04

Total value of the contract/lot: £178,931.04

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Business Entrepreneurship and Start Up

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 October 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

WENTA

Enfield

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £495,159.84

Total value of the contract/lot: £495,159.84

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Business Scale Up & Resilience

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 October 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

Cranfield University

Bedford

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH24 - Bedford

UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number)

10007822

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £495,159.84

Total value of the contract/lot: £495,159.84

Section V. Award of contract

Title

Local Business Decarbonisation

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

12 October 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

Cranfield University

Bedford

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH24 - Bedford

UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number)

10007822

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £432,874.08

Total value of the contract/lot: £432,874.08

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Central Bedfordshire Council

Shefford

Email

procurement@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom