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Contract

Adult Education Budget 2023/24 Procurement Contracts for Services

Department for Education

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-030394

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03962d

Published 16 October 2023, 10:05am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Department for Education

Sanctuary Buildings, 20, Great Smith Street

London

SW1P 3BT

Contact

Department for Education

Email

aebprocurement.help@education.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Ministry or any other national or federal authority

I.5) Main activity

Education

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Adult Education Budget 2023/24 Procurement Contracts for Services

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The purpose of this notice is to the awarded contracts for the delivery of adult education and training to learners aged 19 and over, who are resident in non-devolved areas of England, through Education and Skills Funding Agency (“ESFA”) funded Adult Education Budget (“AEB”) contracts for services (including the level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer (“FCFJ”).

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: £75,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Existing ESFA-Funded AEB contracts for services came to an end on 31 July 2023 and therefore the Department for Education (the "Authority") was required to undertake a further procurement exercise to secure this provision.

The Authority, on behalf of the ESFA, conducted a competitive procurement exercise (carried out in accordance with the Light Touch Regime, applying the principles of the Open Procedure as set out in the Public Contract Regulations 2015) for new ESFA-funded AEB contracts for services. These contracts will commence on 1 August 2023 for an initial period of twelve months covering the 2023/24 academic year, with options to extend further by up to three 12-month periods (extension will depend on factors including individual supplier performance and government spending priorities).

Providers needed to meet the criteria and quality standards that were set out in the procurement documents.

The contracts awarded through this procurement exercise are for qualifications-based provision and/or their components described in the AEB funding rules and/or the Free Courses For Jobs ("FCFJ") offer.

Multiple providers were sought to deliver the service across the non-devolved regions of England only. This means individual suppliers were limited to a maximum contract value, referred to as a 'tender cap' according to factors including their experience of providing similar services and the size of the bidding organisation. Note however that the Authority did not guarantee that providers who were successfully appointed would necessarily receive funding in an amount equivalent to their applicable tender cap.

Separately to this, an overall maximum contract value of £2.5 million per year applied to each Provider (albeit subject to availability of funding/provider performance, the Authority may award funding beyond the afore-mentioned 'caps' to providers if/when further funding becomes available and therefore annual contract values may increase in due course).

Following award, contract values may be increased or decreased according to factors

including performance by the contractor and government funding priorities as further explained in the procurement documents.

Given the duration of the contract, the Authority may (at its absolute discretion) agree to variations in respect of the subject-matter of the courses delivered to the extent that such courses continue to fall within the auspices of adult education and the relevant funding rules as described above.

The procurement was open to providers who are seeking to deliver adult education and training provision funded by the ESFA AEB and FCFJ (and/or any other relevant public sector funding which may become available to deliver adult education programmes from time to time). Awarded Providers must deliver such provision in accordance with the current funding rules applicable to such funding (such that the provision is wholly fundable within the scope of those funding rules)

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 90

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 0

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

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: [2023/S 000-003507](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Title

THE PORTLAND TRAINING COMPANY LIMITED - ESFA AEB (Contract for Services 2023)

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

31 July 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 338

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

THE PORTLAND TRAINING COMPANY LIMITED

Sheffield

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £2,498,077

Section V. Award of contract

Title

TLG BUSINESS SERVICES LIMITED - ESFA AEB (Contract for Services 2023)

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

31 July 2023

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 338

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

TLG BUSINESS SERVICES LIMITED

Newcastle upon Tyne

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £297,230

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The Royal Courts of Justice

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom