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Planning

Void Energy Management Scheme

North Lanarkshire Council

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-030952

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-04a386

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North Lanarkshire Council

Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street

Motherwell

ML1 1AB

Contact

Alan Clark

Email

clarkalan@northlan.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3451430015

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKM84 - North Lanarkshire

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/>

I.3) Communication

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

Housing and community amenities

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Void Energy Management Scheme

Reference number

NLC-CPT-24-071

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 71314000 - Energy and related services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

As part of the preparatory work for a potential future procurement procedure, North Lanarkshire Council (the “Council”) is looking to engage with the market for a future Void Energy Management Scheme contract.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 09300000 - Electricity, heating, solar and nuclear energy
- 09121200 - Mains gas

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKM84 - North Lanarkshire

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Within any future potential future Void Energy Management Scheme contract., services required would involve the provision of gas and / or electricity to the Council on a short-term basis following the departure of a tenant from the Council’s housing stock to enable repairs etc.in preparation for new tenants and provide any new tenant with gas and / or electricity as their entry supplier.

Historically, an average of 2,804 properties per year within the pilot, with an additional benefit of the free provision of 4 pay points.

The energy used when a house is void should be supplied to the Council on a standard tariff plan. This is because the Council are the customer for only a short period and therefore could incur financial penalties in a fixed tariff plan. Therefore for best value, any future contract should be of sufficient length to ensure continuity whilst permitting the opportunity for best value in terms of tariff prices.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

25 November 2024

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: No

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

To enable the Council to plan and prepare for any future procurement procedure to award an agreement for required services, the Council would like to invite interested parties to complete and return the attached Market Engagement Questionnaire as instructed within.

The main objectives of this PIN and any future contract are to:

- provide a comprehensive concession style service (no cost to Council) in related to void energy management service to the Council's housing repairs team to ensure uninterrupted supply of gas and electricity during void tenancy periods;
- arrange switching of suppliers; clearing of legacy debt and deal with metering issues such as tampered / damaged or missing meters and prepayment device management;
- enable the service to be available for the Councils mainstream housing and temporary accommodation;
- minimise the cost to the Council and provide best value to its tenants to alleviate fuel poverty fears;
- enable energy supply is to be based on best available fixed rate tariff for minimum time period during the void period with the new tenant having the option to change tariff on taking over the tenancy;
- explore the potential of zero fee standing charge;
- provide the figures of the volume of properties being switch with consumption usage and rates;
- explore if VUS operated by licensed gas / electric / heat supplier i.e. not an intermediary;
- discover what tariff options and ranges are available i.e. standard electric, gas, dual fuel

and E7 / E10 / Comfort Plus / Total Heat Total Control (Preferable but noted that these are restricted to certain suppliers);

- ensure direct lines of communication for operational staff and streamline switching process;
- enable provision of an online platform for void management service and provide training to appropriate staff
- learn more about energy supplier switching timescales in line with industry i.e. 17 days gas and 7 day electric etc.
- identify meters (dry etc.) to be replaced where possible with smart meters without causing a delay in the Councils void repairs process (preferably SMETS2).
- enable regular billing for consumption – preferably grouped account with individual sub accounts
- provide 4 pay points for the Service to utilise.
- assist and further develop this proposed management scheme, the Service requires to engage with existing providers within the current market who would be interested in providing this management service.

Additional Info

Issues with property meters can be a barrier to optimising void performance. Although the delay caused due to metering is not measured, it is acknowledged that a process / service to address this particular issue is a benefit to the Council.

It was acknowledged that there was a lack of robust statistical evidence to demonstrate a benefit to the Council however anecdotally it was felt this type of service provided a level of geographical coherence, and therefore positively impacted on the council's void processes and performance.

Please respond with your completed questionnaire to Alan Clark,
clarkalan@northlan.gov.uk, no later than 17:00 18 October 2024.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Public Contracts Scotland Web Site at
https://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=779099.

(SC Ref:779099)

