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Opportunity

NTCA Flexible Procurement Agreement for Post 16 Skills Framework

North of Tyne Combined Authority

F02: Contract notice

Notice reference: 2022/S 000-032058

Published: 11 November 2022, 2:25pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

North of Tyne Combined Authority

The Lumen St James Boulevard

Newcastle

NE4 5BZ

Contact

Mrs Joanna Elliott

Email

joanna.elliott@northtyneside.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1916434351

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKC - North East (England)

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk>

Buyer's address

<http://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Opportunities>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted electronically via

<https://procontract.due-north.com>

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

NTCA Flexible Procurement Agreement for Post 16 Skills Framework

Reference number

DN642521

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) is a partnership of three local authorities: Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Northumberland and has a directly-elected Metro Mayor.

Our vision is of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region's future.

To support the NTCA's vision, our region requires a skills infrastructure that is fully aware of, and responsive to, the sectors that have labour and skills shortages. It also needs to take into consideration planned economic growth, both now and in the future.

That is why we are determined—through devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) and the other skills funding available to us—to tailor adult education and skills provision in the region so that residents and local businesses can secure the skills they need to succeed.

The Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) was devolved to NTCA for delivery from 1st August 2020. Additional skills funding has been delegated from the Department of Education (DfE) to the NTCA. This funding comprises of 'Free Courses for Jobs' and 'Technical Bootcamp' funding.

NTCA also receive funding to deliver the Government's 'Multiply' programme - an adult

numeracy maths focussed programme funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and in two years' time we will be commissioning the 'People and Skills' element of UKSPF. NTCA's Investment Fund also support Skills Programmes and learning activities to support our wider projects and investments.

NTCA's funding for Skills provides the opportunity to join up the regions skills and training offer, reduce duplication and make sure we are reaching those communities most disadvantaged. In order to achieve this, we are launching a Post 16 Flexible Procurement Framework and inviting a wide range of organisations and providers of skills including FE Colleges, independent training organisations, VCSE organisations and other stakeholders including employer providers to tender for a place on the Framework.

The Flexible Procurement Framework will be utilised to procure providers for devolved funding and other funding streams that NTCA has access to for Skills. We aim to secure packages of provision across 7 Lots that will include:

Lot 1: Devolved Adult Skills Fund (Adult Education Budget)

Lot 2: Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs

Lot 3: Skills Bootcamps

Lot 4: UKSPF People & Skills and Multiply

Lot 5: Skills for Growth

Lot 6: Place and Innovation

Lot 7: Skills Support for the Workforce

The estimated total value of the Flexible Procurement Framework (across Lots 1 to 7 inclusive) is £ £132m. This sum is calculated by £33m for the Term, £33m for a potential 1st 12-month extension, £33m for a potential 2nd 12-month extension and £33m for potential 3rd 12-month extension.

The £132m figure reflects the total value of this flexible procurement agreement (across Lots 1 to 7) that we may deploy because of this procurement competition including any possible contract extensions. The value of the flexible procurement agreement has been calculated to reflect the anticipated requirement for the Services as specified at this time. The overall value is in no way guaranteed and may vary in accordance with affordability, the Government's overall spending priorities and requirements, and any other relevant factors.

Note: Whilst the Buyer in the Contact Details is listed as "North Tyneside Council", this entry is system generated. For the avoidance of doubt, the Buyer in this case is the North of Tyne

Combined Authority (NTCA). North Tyneside Council are conducting this procurement on NTCA's behalf.

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=2c69e97d-b861-ed11-811b-9f38301b3091&p=1c9e782c-541e-e611-8114-000c29c9ba21>

II.1.5) Estimated total value

Value excluding VAT: £132,000,000

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

Tenders may be submitted for all lots

Maximum number of lots that may be awarded to one tenderer: 7

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Devolved Adult Skills Fund

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The principal purpose of the devolved Adult Skills Fund is to engage adults aged 19+ and provide them with the skills needed for entering and sustaining work, an apprenticeship/traineeship, or other further learning.

It provides funding for programmes of learning up to Level 2 (GCSE level equivalent) and some Level 3 qualifications (A level equivalent), dependant on eligibility. It does not fund all Level 3 learning, or programmes at Level 4 and above these are funded through Advanced Learner Loans or Higher Education (HE) funding.

The devolved Adult Skills Fund encompasses a range of statutory entitlements for learners, including the right to fully funded provision for basic English and maths qualifications and, depending on the resident's age and employment status, an entitlement to a first Level 2 and/or Level 3 qualification.

The minimum contract value for this lot is £50,000 and maximum is £750,000

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £11,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3 further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.12) Information about electronic catalogues

Tenders must be presented in the form of electronic catalogues or include an electronic catalogue

II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Free Courses for Jobs Level 3 Adult Offer

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The Free Courses for Jobs Level 3 Adult Offer is designed to help adults to gain the skills that are sought by employers. This will help them improve their job prospects and support economic recovery.

Funding in this Lot is available for provision to support adults to gain free fully funded Level 3 qualifications that are part of the national approved adult offer. This offer includes around 400 Level 3 qualifications in 20 different sector subject areas (SSA). NTCA officers, in

consultation with providers will monitor qualifications on the approved list to ensure that they meet the needs of NTCA's growth/recovery sectors for delivery.

Funding in this Lot should support adults aged 24+ to gain their first Level 3 qualification, it is also available to adults in the NTCA region who earn less than the Real Living Wage or who are unemployed. This is regardless of their prior qualification level.

The minimum contract value for this lot is £125,000 and maximum £500,000

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £2,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A

Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3 further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Skills Bootcamps

Lot No

3

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Skills Bootcamps are intensive, Level 3-5 or equivalent flexible training courses up to 16 weeks, with a guaranteed job interview (in the case of a new job), which equip adults with technical skills that enable them to access in-demand jobs, apprenticeships, new opportunities and an increased level of income over time (including for the self-employed).

Provision in this Lot should be open to NTCA residents aged 19 or over who are full-time or part-time employed, self-employed, unemployed (i.e., not in work), as well as adults returning to work after a break.

Providers must ensure employer involvement in the design and delivery of their Skills Bootcamp provision. Providers will be required by the NTCA to provide evidence of its work with employers. This could include involvement in the provision of behavioural skills support, work experience, coaching and mentoring, or the delivery of content.

Providers can offer a range of Skills Bootcamps courses, such as:

- digital skills, including marketing, coding or data analysis
- technical training in areas such as engineering, construction, or logistics (HGV driving)
- green skills, for instance, solar energy or agriculture technology

The minimum contract value for this lot is £100,000 and maximum is £700,000

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £7,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A

Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3

further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

UKSPF People & Skills/Multiply

Lot No

4

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The primary objective of funding available in Lot 4 is to boost core skills and supporting adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low-level skills. Funding in Lot 4 will also support training for people to take up jobs in growing low carbon industries and transitioning from high carbon to low carbon jobs, raising awareness of green economy job opportunities.

Lot 4 is also for provision to support NTCA's Multiply Programme. The Government has committed that a priority of the UKSPF funds will be for a Multiply programme supporting adults to improve functional numeracy skills.

Multiply funding in the NTCA region must help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work. Whether that be improving household finances, helping children with homework, making more sense of the facts in the media, or improving numeracy skills specific to a line of work. To achieve that, providers may offer a range of

options such as free personal tutoring, digital training and flexible courses that fit around people's lives and are tailored to specific needs, circumstances, sectors and industries.

The minimum contract value for this lot is £50,000 and maximum £600,000

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £5,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A

Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3 further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Skills for Sector Growth

Lot No

5

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The principal purpose of funding in Lot 5 Skills for Sector Growth Lot is to ensure that NTCA funding for innovation and targeted investment is underpinned by the development of a skills and talent pipeline which support key growth sectors such as Digital Innovation and Growth, Green Growth, and Skills for the Culture, and the Creative and Tourism Sectors.

This funding presents an opportunity for a range of organisations and partnerships to come forward with ideas for projects, collaborations and proposals for co-investment in skills interventions.

Proposals to this Lot should be evidence led and clearly demonstrate need, complementarity to existing support/investment, and strong strategic fit with NTCA's skills policy objectives. Provision must be linked to the inward investment and job opportunities in the NTCA region. We aim to invest in skills and training projects that are designed in collaboration with project developers and existing local firms operating in our region.

Programmes must be collaborative, partnership based, and employer led or backed. They must promote equality of access to careers in our growth sectors and give regard to creating opportunities for the unemployed as well as upskilling of the existing workforce.

All provision must add value to a wide range of other support and not duplicate existing activity. Levering other funding where possible.

The minimum contract value for this lot is £500,000 and maximum £1m

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £5,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A

Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3 further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Place & Innovation

Lot No

6

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision in this Lot will support NTCA's wider programmes including our work on child poverty prevention and education improvement programmes, which aim to support schools, children and their families through delivery of support and interventions including family learning, enrichment and mental health and wellbeing.

Provision in this Lot can be utilised to test new flexibilities and support innovation. NTCA will make provision for pilot activity and 'test and learn' projects which could, for example, trial new payment models, rates and eligibility for specified activity, pilot niche provision or delivery models, and scale up existing activity for cohorts of priority learners/employment sectors.

Provision may include support for residents with Special Education Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND). NTCA recognises that there are barriers to adult education and training for learners with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). For example, this could be the availability and awareness of local provision that meets an individual's needs, appropriate training for staff and risk assessments in mainstream institutions to support learners with SEND, and the cost of and access to public transport. NTCA expects providers to ensure that planned provision is accessible to all residents.

The minimum contract value for this lot is £30,000 and maximum £500,000

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £2,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A

Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3 further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Skills Support for the Workforce

Lot No

7

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKC - North East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Provision in Lot 7 is to provide skills support for small and medium sized businesses to upskill their employee with training courses and qualifications to grow their business and boost the local economy.

Providers may develop bespoke training programmes that suit individual employer needs which can be accessed at no cost to the business. Programmes can be offered across a range of subject areas including customer service, leadership and management, health and social care, digital and sustainability.

Provision can include but is not limited to training needs analysis for your business, identifying the skills needed to support business ambitions, full qualifications or mix and match individual units to suit, on-the-job vocational training to meet individual and business needs including taught learning, workplace assessment, distance learning and online learning

Learning pathways for employees enabling them to progress within the organisation onto higher level qualifications or apprenticeships.

The minimum contract value for this lot is £50,000 and maximum £500,000

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price is not the only award criterion and all criteria are stated only in the procurement documents

II.2.6) Estimated value

Value excluding VAT: £1,000,000

II.2.7) Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system

Duration in months

12

This contract is subject to renewal

Yes

Description of renewals

The initial term of any awarded the Contract(s) is from 1st March 2023 to 29th April 2024. A Contract with a Provider may, at the sole discretion of the Authority, be extended for 3 further periods of 12 months each.

II.2.10) Information about variants

Variants will be accepted: No

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 III. Legal, economic, financial and technical information

III.1) Conditions for participation

III.1.2) Economic and financial standing

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

III.1.3) Technical and professional ability

Selection criteria as stated in the procurement documents

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Open procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the establishment of a framework agreement

Framework agreement with a single operator

In the case of framework agreements, provide justification for any duration exceeding 4 years:

The Framework will not exceed 4 year duration

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.2.2) Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate

Date

16 December 2022

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.6) Minimum time frame during which the tenderer must maintain the tender

Duration in months: 3 (from the date stated for receipt of tender)

IV.2.7) Conditions for opening of tenders

Date

16 December 2022

Local time

12:00pm

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.1) Information about recurrence

This is a recurrent procurement: No

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Royal Courts of Justice

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom