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Award

Provision of Financial Services

Avon Fire & Rescue Service

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-034795

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-038be6

Published 8 December 2022, 1:39pm

Section I: Contracting authority/entity

I.1) Name and addresses

Avon Fire & Rescue Service

Valley Road, Portishead

Bristol

BS20 8JJ

Contact

Tanya Nathan

Email

tanya.nathan@avonfire.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 1179262061

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

National registration number

VAT No: 664419911

Internet address(es)

Main address

<http://www.avonfire.gov.uk>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

Public order and safety

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Provision of Financial Services

Reference number

AFRS08-2022-15

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 66000000 - Financial and insurance services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This is a Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency Notice to inform the market that Avon Fire Authority, operating as Avon Fire & Rescue Service, is intending to award a public contract by use of the negotiated procedure without prior publication, in accordance with Regulation 32 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The object of the public contract is the provision of financial services, which is a public service contract.

The general grounds are that the services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator, namely Bristol City Council, for the following reason:

‘Competition is absent for technical reasons’ – this is explained below in the ‘Description of the procurement’.

The Authority’s intention to award the contract is also covered by Regulation 72(1)(b) of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which allows for ‘modification of contracts during their term’ without a new procurement procedure due to ‘technical reasons’.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Lowest offer: £500,000 / Highest offer: £500,000 taken into consideration

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 66170000 - Financial consultancy, financial transaction processing and clearing-house services
- 66172000 - Financial transaction processing and clearing-house services
- 79412000 - Financial management consultancy services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

Main site or place of performance

Portishead, North Somerset, England

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Avon Fire Authority, operating as Avon Fire & Rescue Service, is intending to award a public contract for the provision of financial services, in accordance with Regulation 32 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

This decision is due to technical reasons, namely that we have a shared finance database and software solution, which has meant that additional services beyond March 2023, which were not included in the original tender from Bristol City Council (the sole bid received in 2018/2019), have become necessary, where a change of contractor, cannot be made at this time.

The current financial services contract with Bristol City Council expires in March 2023, however, the Service is currently in the process of a Finance Improvement Programme, including a move to devolved budgets, which will substantially change the Services' financial services specification/requirements over the next 12-24 months. It is therefore not possible to attempt to 'fix' a financial services specification for a formal tender exercise at this time, as the Services' requirements will be much clearer once the Finance Improvement

Programme work is completed. The Service therefore intends to extend the current financial services contract with Bristol City Council for 2 years, until March 2025, to cover this period of change and during this period conduct a tender exercise which would cover new requirements identified during the Finance Improvement Programme. It is also possible that extending the contract timeline will also allow the Service an opportunity to investigate collaborative working opportunities, including sharing financial services, with another public sector organisation.

The Financial Services contract will therefore be extended until March 2025, to provide the services already outlined in the extant contract, including:

- Payroll and allowances
- Accounting
- Treasury Management
- Creditors, and
- General revenue services

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

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:

Avon Fire Authority, operating as Avon Fire & Rescue Service, is indicating its intention to award a public contract to Bristol City Council for the provision of financial services until March 2025, in accordance with Regulation 32 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015, having concluded that ‘competition is absent for technical reasons’.

Avon Fire Authority will observe a standstill period of ten days beginning with the day after publication of this notice on the OJEU.

Once the Finance Improvement Programme work is completed, a public tender will be issued providing an opportunity for suppliers to bid for the financial services contract from April 2025.

The object of the public contract is the provision of financial services, which is a public service contract.

The general grounds are that the services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator, namely Bristol City Council, for the following reason:

‘Competition is absent for technical reasons’ – due to the sharing of a finance database and system.

Avon Fire Authority’s intention to award the contract is also covered by Regulation 72(1)(b) of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which allows for ‘modification of contracts during their term’ without a new procurement procedure due to ‘technical reasons’; the proposed extension to the current financial services contract would equate to 40% of the original contract, including the extension period, so would not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract with Bristol City Council.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract/concession

Title

Provision of Financial Services

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract/concession

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

8 December 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire

Bristol City Council

City Hall, College Green

Bristol

BS1 5TR

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: £500,000

Lowest offer: £500,000 / Highest offer: £500,000 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Avon Fire and Rescue Services

Valley Road

Portishead

BS20 8JJ

Email

supplies@avonfire.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

VI.4.3) Review procedure

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures

Please contact Avon Fire and Rescue Services in the first instance.