

This is a published notice on the Find a Tender service: <https://www.find-tender.service.gov.uk/Notice/040430-2025>

Tender

Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

East Durham College

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-040430

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05601b

Published 16 July 2025, 10:33am

Scope

Reference

ASF-EDC-2526

Description

East Durham College is looking to secure a maximum of 2 organisations to deliver adult education courses to people aged 19 years and over who live in postcodes within the North East Combined Authority area.

The contract value will be based on an 80/20 split. The full contract value will be a maximum of £450,000 - Tenderers are invited to bid for the contract amount they can effectively deliver within the specified contract requirements, it will then be at the discretion of the College to determine the split of the contract award. This may be split as incremental awards throughout the academic year dependent on achievement of deliverables.

Adults must live in an address with a North East Combined Authority postcode, it is not the delivery location. Provision is expected to be part-time and must be linked to the North East

Combined Authority Strategic Aims for each area. East Durham College is only seeking provision in subject sector areas 4 (Engineering) and 5 (Construction), which moves adults either directly into jobs or closer to the employment market. We will not accept large volumes of employability provision or distance learning. We would expect all the funded provision to be ASF funded and not Free Courses for Jobs.

The training must be delivered in full by the contracted training provider, i.e. only one level of sub-contracting is permitted, no second level subcontracting is permitted. The quality of provision and subcontractor financial health will be paramount as the College will retain responsibility to the North East Combined Authority and OFSTED for programme quality. Financial health and inspection outcomes are mandatory elements of the assessment process which can lead to instant exclusion from the tender process. Where a credit rating shows an above average risk or an Ofsted outcome is less than Good, we will reject a tender unless there are exceptional circumstances given. Where these are given, the college will require a face to face meeting for further investigation of evidence to decide whether the tender can go forward for further review.

The estimated contract value reflects the funding value of learning to be delivered and will be subject to a management fee which will not exceed 20%.

Providers must have experience of delivering provision to meet local skills needs and be able to provide verified data in the following areas:

Achievement rates which are above national averages

High levels of positive progression into employment

History of achieving contracts in the last two years

The positive progression must be into employment, further learning or improved prospects. We are not looking to deliver generic employability programmes.

We will only look to contract with providers who have a history of delivering in the North East and they must have a permanent base in the North East.

We will not accept tenders from organisations based outside of the geographical area who intend to rent premises to undertake his delivery. Checks will be carried out to ascertain longevity of operation in the North East.

Total value (estimated)

- £450,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 8 September 2025 to 31 July 2026
- 10 months, 23 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80000000 - Education and training services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)

Lot constraints

Maximum number of lots a supplier can bid for: 1

Maximum number of lots a supplier can be awarded: 1

Description of how multiple lots may be awarded:

Tenderers will be awarded a maximum contract value for their lot, this may be payable in

stages dependant on deliverables and needs of the College - This will be agreed on award.

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

Description

East Durham College is looking to secure a maximum of 2 organisations to deliver adult education courses to people aged 19 years and over who live in postcodes within the North East Combined Authority area.

The contract value will be based on an 80/20 split. The full contract value will be a maximum of £450,000 - Tenderers are invited to bid for the contract amount they can effectively deliver within the specified contract requirements, it will then be at the discretion of the College to determine the split of the contract award. This may be split as incremental awards throughout the academic year dependent on achievement of deliverables.

Adults must live in an address with a North East Combined Authority postcode, it is not the delivery location. Provision is expected to be part-time and must be linked to the North East Combined Authority Strategic Aims for each area. East Durham College is only seeking provision in subject sector areas 4 (Engineering) and 5 (Construction), which moves adults either directly into jobs or closer to the employment market. We will not accept large volumes of employability provision or distance learning. We would expect all the funded provision to be ASF funded and not Free Courses for Jobs.

The training must be delivered in full by the contracted training provider, i.e. only one level of sub-contracting is permitted, no second level subcontracting is permitted. The quality of provision and subcontractor financial health will be paramount as the College will retain responsibility to the North East Combined Authority and OFSTED for programme quality. Financial health and inspection outcomes are mandatory elements of the assessment process which can lead to instant exclusion from the tender process. Where a credit rating shows an above average risk or an Ofsted outcome is less than Good, we will reject a tender unless there are exceptional circumstances given. Where these are given, the college will

require a face to face meeting for further investigation of evidence to decide whether the tender can go forward for further review.

The estimated contract value reflects the funding value of learning to be delivered and will be subject to a management fee which will not exceed 20%.

Providers must have experience of delivering provision to meet local skills needs and be able to provide verified data in the following areas:

Achievement rates which are above national averages

High levels of positive progression into employment

History of achieving contracts in the last two years

The positive progression must be into employment, further learning or improved prospects. We are not looking to deliver generic employability programmes.

We will only look to contract with providers who have a history of delivering in the North East and they must have a permanent base in the North East.

We will not accept tenders from organisations based outside of the geographical area who intend to rent premises to undertake his delivery. Checks will be carried out to ascertain longevity of operation in the North East.

Lot value (estimated)

- £225,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)

Description

East Durham College is looking to secure a maximum of 2 organisations to deliver adult education courses to people aged 19 years and over who live in postcodes within the North East Combined Authority area.

The contract value will be based on an 80/20 split. The full contract value will be a maximum of £450,000 - Tenderers are invited to bid for the contract amount they can effectively deliver within the specified contract requirements, it will then be at the discretion of the College to determine the split of the contract award. This may be split as incremental awards throughout the academic year dependent on achievement of deliverables.

Adults must live in an address with a North East Combined Authority postcode, it is not the delivery location. Provision is expected to be part-time and must be linked to the North East Combined Authority Strategic Aims for each area. East Durham College is only seeking provision in subject sector areas 4 (Engineering) and 5 (Construction), which moves adults either directly into jobs or closer to the employment market. We will not accept large volumes of employability provision or distance learning. We would expect all the funded provision to be ASF funded and not Free Courses for Jobs.

The training must be delivered in full by the contracted training provider, i.e. only one level of sub-contracting is permitted, no second level subcontracting is permitted. The quality of provision and subcontractor financial health will be paramount as the College will retain responsibility to the North East Combined Authority and OFSTED for programme quality. Financial health and inspection outcomes are mandatory elements of the assessment process which can lead to instant exclusion from the tender process. Where a credit rating shows an above average risk or an Ofsted outcome is less than Good, we will reject a tender unless there are exceptional circumstances given. Where these are given, the college will require a face to face meeting for further investigation of evidence to decide whether the tender can go forward for further review.

The estimated contract value reflects the funding value of learning to be delivered and will be subject to a management fee which will not exceed 20%.

Providers must have experience of delivering provision to meet local skills needs and be able to provide verified data in the following areas:

Achievement rates which are above national averages

High levels of positive progression into employment

History of achieving contracts in the last two years

The positive progression must be into employment, further learning or improved prospects. We are not looking to deliver generic employability programmes.

We will only look to contract with providers who have a history of delivering in the North East and they must have a permanent base in the North East.

We will not accept tenders from organisations based outside of the geographical area who intend to rent premises to undertake his delivery. Checks will be carried out to ascertain longevity of operation in the North East.

Lot value (estimated)

- £225,000 including VAT

Same for all lots

CPV classifications, contract locations and contract dates are shown in the Scope section, because they are the same for all lots.

Participation

Legal and financial capacity conditions of participation

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)

Please see Tender Details (Schedules)

Technical ability conditions of participation

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)

Please see Tender Details (Schedules)

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

11 August 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

15 August 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Tenders to submitted by e-mail to;

joanne.wilson@eastdurham.ac.uk

procurement@eastdurham.ac.uk

Tenders may be submitted electronically

No

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

26 August 2025

Recurring procurement

Publication date of next tender notice (estimated): 1 July 2026

Award criteria

Name	Description	Type	Weighting
Quality	As per tender schedules	Quality	85%
Added/Social Value	As per tender schedules	Quality	15%

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Concession

Documents

Associated tender documents

[ITT ASF Subcontracting FD.docx](#)

Contracting authority

East Durham College

- UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number): 10002111
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXPm-1872-RCYW

Willerby Grove

Co Durham

SR8 2RN

United Kingdom

Email: joanne.wilson@eastdurham.ac.uk

Region: UKC14 - Durham CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government