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Contract

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Support

Essex County Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-040792

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04565f

Published 18 December 2024, 2:28pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Essex County Council

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

Contact

Ms Rachel Horne

Email

rachel.horne@essex.gov.uk

Telephone

+44 3330322307

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKH3 - Essex

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

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

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Support

Reference number

DN729186

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85000000 - Health and social work services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Essex County Council ("the Council") conducted a procurement to commission a new Voluntary and Community Support service as part of a wider offer to strengthen and champion a thriving and influential voluntary and community sector within the administrative boundaries of Essex (excluding the unitary authorities areas of Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea). In addition, this service will also be open to the following classification of users: NHS Healthcare (Integrated Care Systems) both within the administrative boundaries of Essex and cross-boundary organisations.

This procurement encompassed the following lots:

Lot One: Universal Standard Support Offer

Lot Two: Community Participation

The commencement date for both lots is 1st December 2024 until 31st March 2031 with a break clause at 31st March 2028. Please note that the maximum duration amounts to 75 months and 30 days. However, due to the constraints with the fields in this notice, this position has been rounded up to the nearest month. The stated budget for this service is based on £75,000 for the initial four (4) months per lot and £75,000 p.a. for each subsequent year of the contracts per lot. In addition, the Council understands that there may be scope for additional funding of up to 15% although this remains subject to confirmation

during the post-tender phase of the project. In addition, please note that the total value of the procurement in section II.1.7 of this notice reflects the cumulative value of the contract award for both lots excluding any additional funding.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: Yes

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

Value excluding VAT: £1,041,352

II.2) Description

II.2.1) Title

Universal Standard Support Offer (USSO)

Lot No

1

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 98133100 - Civic betterment and community facility support services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

The scope of this lot was designed to secure provider(s) to develop and maintain a Universal Standard Support Offer (USSO) to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Essex. This service is designed to allow users to self-assess and directs them to relevant, up to date and accessible business and compliance advice.

The overarching purpose of this lot is to provide equity in access to quality, practical guidance to ensure organisations have the strong foundations needed to support them to achieve their goals, plan for development, become more resilient, build capacity and contribute to flourishing communities.

The successful bidder must ensure that the service delivers the following commissioning requirements:

- Ensure the USSO is hosted as a digital platform
- Allow users the ability to complete self-assessments of their organisational health
- Automatically direct users to high-quality and relevant information, advice, guidance and resources based on the outcome of their self-assessment regarding business development and compliance (e.g. governance procedures, safeguarding, policy templates, legal updates, training).
- Be easily accessible to all VCS organisations regardless of size, skill or accessibility needs.
- Allow users to intelligently browse the resources within the USSO

Please note that the above information is intended to provide an overview of the Council's commissioning requirements for this service and full details of the scope of this provision were published in the associated service specification via the Council's e-tendering portal, ProContract.

The proposed contract commencement date is 1st December 2024 until 31st March 2031 with a break clause at 31st March 2028. The stated budget for this lot is based on £75,000 for the initial four (4) month term followed by £75,000 p.a. for each subsequent year of the contract. In addition, the Council understands that there may be scope for additional funding of up to 15%, although this matter remains subject to final confirmation.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 30

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

Community Participation

Lot No

2

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 98133100 - Civic betterment and community facility support services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKH3 - Essex

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This lot was designed to enable the Council to commission provider(s) to deliver a strategic approach to building Community Participation across Essex.

The successful provider for this lot will be required to support the development of a broad approach to community participation, developing a culture of active and engaged communities that can be driven forward and supported by place-based resources. Leading the development of an eco-system that enables and grows community participation within the boundaries of Essex County Council (excluding Southend and Thurrock).

- Lead the creation of an ecosystem that facilitates community participation
- Support and develop a positive environment in which the value of participation is recognised and community activity is flourishing
- Embrace digital technology to connect local efforts into an integrated whole
- Advocate for accessible participation, by creating, promoting, and fostering accessible and welcoming pathways into community participation
- Identify and scope opportunities to maximise the potential of corporate volunteering capacity and return on Social Value commitments.

Please note that the above information is intended to provide an overview of the Council's commissioning requirements for this service and full details of the scope of this provision were published in the associated service specification via the Council's e-tendering portal, ProContract.

The proposed contract commencement date is 1st December 2024 until 31st March 2031 with a break clause at 31st March 2028. The stated budget for this lot is based on £75,000 for the initial four (4) month term followed by £75,000 p.a. for each subsequent year of the contract. In addition, the Council understands that there may be scope for additional funding of up to 15%, although this matter remains subject to confirmation during the post-tender phase of the project.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Quality criterion - Name: Quality / Weighting: 60

Quality criterion - Name: Social Value / Weighting: 10

Price - Weighting: 30

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: [2024/S 000-023390](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

1

Title

Universal Standard Support Offer (USSO)

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

7 November 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 2

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 2

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 2

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

Maldon and District Community Voluntary Service (MDCVS)

Maldon District Council Offices, Princes Road

Maldon

CM9 5DL

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH3 - Essex

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £517,015

V.2.5) Information about subcontracting

The contract is likely to be subcontracted

Value or proportion likely to be subcontracted to third parties

Proportion: 24 %

Short description of the part of the contract to be subcontracted

The sub-contracting arrangements for this service will be delivered by a subject matter expert in the development of online systems and local infrastructure alongside an experienced provider in facilitating recourse to adaptive and flexible information for individuals who are not digitally literate. These provisions are intended to facilitate the delivery of the wider USSO service as per the Council's specified requirements.

Section V. Award of contract

Lot No

2

Title

Community Participation

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

7 November 2024

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 3

Number of tenders received from SMEs: 2

Number of tenders received from tenderers from other EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received from tenderers from non-EU Member States: 0

Number of tenders received by electronic means: 3

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

The Active Wellbeing Society Limited

Manor House, Hay Hall Business Park, Redfern Road, Tyseley

Birmingham

B11 2BE

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKG31 - Birmingham

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

ATF Southend

The Hub 324-326, Chartwell Square, Victoria Plaza

Southend-on-Sea

SS2 5SP

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH3 - Essex

The contractor is an SME

Yes

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

Total value of the contract/lot: £524,337

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

Please note that as per the terms of the contract notice for this procurement, bidders were only permitted to submit a response to one of the specified lots.

In addition, please note that in relation to the contractual award for lot 2: Community Participation, the successful tender was submitted under a collaborative bid with a lead provider, The Active Wellbeing Society Limited which has been awarded the contract to deliver the service in conjunction with ATF Southend under an informal partnership arrangement. Under the terms of this arrangement, The Active Wellbeing Society will be the sole party to the contract with the Council to deliver this service.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

The High Court

The Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Country

United Kingdom