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Planning

Provision of the Connect to Work Programme In Herefordshire - - Market Engagement RFI

Herefordshire Council

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-042497

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-0564db

Published 23 July 2025, 4:24pm

Scope

Description

Herefordshire Council is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) for the purpose of establishing whether there are any organisations that are interested in delivering the Connect to Work programme in Herefordshire.

Connect to Work is a new employment programme, funded by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). The programme will primarily support people who are disabled and economically inactive. It will focus on vocational profiling, early engagement with employers and supporting people into work quickly. Ongoing support is then provided to the participant and their employer to help sustain them in work. The programme also involves flexibility to support adults at risk of unemployment due to complex needs to be supported to sustain and improve their employment.

Herefordshire Council will be working in partnership with Shropshire Council (who is the Accountable Body for the Marches geographic area responsible for Connect to Work) on the commissioning, implementation and management of this exciting programme which will support up to 599 residents in Herefordshire over the expected 5-year programme (subject to government spending reviews).

There will be 2 Lots:

Lot 1 - Individual Placement and Support (IPS)

Lot 2 - Local Supported Employment Services (SEQF)

Our ambition is to deliver this programme in partnership with one high-quality provider for each Lot who can meet set annual targets for supporting economically inactive adults across Herefordshire into work delivering the IPS and SEQF elements of the programme.

We anticipate contracts will be awarded and commence from December 2025 with service commencement (referrals and starts on programme) from January 2026.

For this RFI, we are keen hear from providers who have previously or are currently delivering supported employment programmes and those interested in supporting the delivery of Connect to Work.

Closing date for responses: Wednesday 06 August 2025 at 12:00

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026
- Possible extension to 31 December 2030
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79611000 - Job search services
- 79634000 - Career guidance services

- 80000000 - Education and training services
- 85300000 - Social work and related services
- 98000000 - Other community, social and personal services

Contract locations

- UKG11 - Herefordshire, County of

Engagement

Engagement deadline

6 August 2025

Engagement process description

Herefordshire Council has published this Request for Information on the 'Supplying the Southwest Portal', project reference DN783822. To view the documentation related to this opportunity you will need to register on the portal if you are not already registered with Procontract and express an interest in the opportunity.

To register with Procontract on the Supplying the Southwest Portal, click on the link below or copy and paste the link into your browser's address bar:

<https://www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk>

Closing date for responses: Wednesday 06 August 2025 at 12:00

Participation

Particular suitability

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - Voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
-

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

29 August 2025

Procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Contracting authority

Herefordshire Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDTG-2978-LHCN

Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane

Hereford

HR4 0LE

United Kingdom

Email: commercialservices@herefordshire.gov.uk

Region: UKG11 - Herefordshire, County of

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

Other organisation

These organisations are carrying out the procurement, or part of it, on behalf of the contracting authorities.

Shropshire Council

Summary of their role in this procurement: Accountable Body for the Marches geographic area responsible for Connect to Work

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PCLL-9577-QDZW

Guildhall, Frankwell Quay

Shrewsbury

SY3 8HQ

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@shropshire.gov.uk

Region: UKG22 - Shropshire CC

Contact organisation

Contact Herefordshire Council for any enquiries.