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Award

Appointment of a Creative Team for Blyth Celebrates Festival of Energy

Northumberland County Council

UK6: Contract award notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-051980

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051b78 ([view related notices](#))

Published 28 August 2025, 1:54pm

Scope

Reference

NCC1583

Description

Northumberland County Council wishes to appoint a Creative Team that will design, create, produce and deliver a high profile and impactful inaugural Festival of Energy that will attract interest from a wide-ranging audience including local people of all ages, key partners in Blyth and the national / international arts and renewables / energy sectors.

Northumberland County Council (NCC) were successful in attracting £355,384 from North East Combined Authority (NECA) for a Festival of ENERGY in Blyth, taking place in February 2026 in partnership with ORE Catapult, Port of Blyth and Newcastle University.

The Festival of ENERGY is a creative and artistic response to the globally recognised, innovation in renewables, taking place in Blyth, Northumberland.

The Festival of ENERGY will offer a key highlight and finale event as part of Blyth

Celebrates yearlong cultural programme. The four-day event and participatory programme will develop co-designed content with local communities, building new audiences and attracting visitors to the town securing Blyth as a new visitor destination for creativity and innovation and recognised as a world leader in the renewables sector, reflected in the vision of the Energising Blyth regeneration project.

The Festival of ENERGY will deliver an expansive engagement programme from September - December 2025 to explore and delve into the significant renewables sector in Blyth to be showcased and profiled during an intensive long weekend (4 days) in February 2026. The Festival will deliver educational and experiential opportunities through talks, tours, film, interaction and spectacle. We want to demystify and showcase the industry, to capitalise on Blyth's unique economic strength to attract national audiences and support future investment and profile.

The project is due to start in September 2025 with the 4-day Festival taking place in late February 2026. Where we hope to attract 10,000 people, engage with 500 local people and 25 volunteers over the project.

Contract 1

Supplier

- WALK THE PLANK

Contract value

- £355,384 excluding VAT
- £426,460 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Award decision date

28 August 2025

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

28 August 2025

Standstill period

- End: 8 September 2025
- 8 working days

Earliest date the contract will be signed

9 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 10 September 2025 to 31 March 2026
- 6 months, 21 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79952000 - Event services

- 79953000 - Festival organisation services

Contract locations

- UKC2 - Northumberland and Tyne and Wear

Information about tenders

- 9 tenders received
- 7 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 7 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 1 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 1 supplier awarded contracts
- 6 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Supplier

WALK THE PLANK

- Companies House: 03028442
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTBL-9969-CCNJ

37-41 Cobden Street

Salford

M6 6WF

United Kingdom

Email: info@walktheplank.co.uk

Website: <https://www.walktheplank.co.uk/>

Region: UKD34 - Greater Manchester South West

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Northumberland County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJJX-1133-JRGV

County Hall

Morpeth

NE61 2EF

United Kingdom

Contact name: Mrs Teresa Skelly

Email: Teresa.Skelly@northumberland.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk>

Region: UKC21 - Northumberland

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government