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Award

Open Digital Planning - Back Office Planning System (BOPS) Development and Route-to market

Buckinghamshire Council

UK5: Transparency notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-053301

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-059290 ([view related notices](#))

Published 2 September 2025, 4:36pm

Scope

Reference

25 26 436

Description

Buckinghamshire Council is the national lead and contract holder for the Back Office Planning System (BOPS), a key component of the Open Digital Planning (ODP) programme, which is fully sponsored by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). BOPS is being developed in coordination with two sister products- PlanX (led by Lambeth Council) and the Digital Planning Register (led by Camden Council)-as part of a comprehensive digital transformation of planning services in the UK. This is for the provision of development of additional modules and route-to-market workstream for this project.

Contract 1

Supplier

- [Unboxed Consulting Limited](#)

Contract value

- £1,268,000 excluding VAT
- £1,521,600 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 September 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 16 September 2025 to 1 September 2026
- 11 months, 16 days

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 72212100 - Industry specific software development services

Other information

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

- Prototypes and development
- Single supplier - technical reasons

This contract is being awarded directly under Schedule 5 of the Procurement Act 2023, which permit direct awards in cases involving specialised development activities and novel service delivery.

The supplier has previously delivered the core platform and is uniquely positioned to provide the required enhancements due to their established technical integration and in-depth understanding of the system architecture. Engaging a new supplier would introduce material risks to interoperability, delivery timelines, and cost efficiency.

The work forms part of a strategically funded programme involving multiple interdependent digital initiatives. Continuity with the incumbent supplier ensures alignment across workstreams, supports programme stability, and mitigates disruption to delivery.

This approach is consistent with the objectives of the Procurement Act to support innovation, efficiency, and value for money in the delivery of public services.

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Supplier

Unboxed Consulting Limited

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60-62 Commercial Street

London

E1 6LT

United Kingdom

Telephone: 02071834250

Email: accounts@unboxedconsulting.com

Region: UKI42 - Tower Hamlets

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Buckinghamshire Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PCLJ-2677-YQXD

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road

Aylesbury

HP198FF

United Kingdom

Email: procurement@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Region: UKJ13 - Buckinghamshire CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government