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Tender

Open Framework for the Connect to Work Programme across Greater Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire County Council

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

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Scope

Reference

PL24.173

Description

In Spring 2024, Government launched a programme to support people who are economically inactive due to health conditions, disability or complex barriers back to work. The supported employment programme, entitled Connect to Work, is being launched by Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) in partnership with local authority clusters, to provide specific support targeted at the right people, at the right time and based on an individual's circumstances.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) are committed to delivering the Connect to Work scheme across Greater Lincolnshire via a combination of in-house and external partner support.

LCC are seeking to launch an Open Framework for the provision for the Connect to Work programme.

The Open Framework will be accessible to the following public sector bodies:

- Lincolnshire County Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council

Connect to Work is the first programme under the Government's new Get Britain Working Strategy. The programme will be a voluntary, high-fidelity Supported Employment programme, connecting work, health and skills support across all of England and Wales. For full details please see the Connect to Work Grant Guidance paragraphs 1 to 7 as published on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/connect-to-work) here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/connect-to-work>

The aim of the Open Framework for the Connect to Work Programme is to seek suitable providers to support in the successful delivery of the Greater Lincolnshire programme expectations which is currently anticipated at around £7.5 Million per year for three years; and aims to support roughly 2,200 eligible participants per year. Appointed providers will be required to adhere to the principles and five stages of the Supported Employment Model as set out by the Department for Work and Pensions. Full details of the Supported Employment Model along with the Council's requirements can be found in Document 2: Specification.

The Framework will run for a period of four years commencing 1st November 2025. There will be an option for the Council to extend the Contract by a period of up to a further four years. It is anticipated that the Framework will be opened up annually to allow new market entrants to join.

Details of estimated expenditure or potential future uptake are given in good faith as a guide to anticipated funding provided by Department for Work and Pensions. They should not be interpreted as a guarantee and do not form part of a Contract.

Commercial tool

Establishes an open framework

A series of frameworks with substantially the same terms. Awarded suppliers are carried over and new suppliers can bid.

Total value (estimated)

- £30,000,000 excluding VAT
- £32,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 November 2025 to 31 October 2029
- Possible extension to 31 October 2033
- 8 years

Description of possible extension:

The Open Framework is anticipated to run for four (4) years from 1 November 2025, with optional extensions of up to a further four years at the Council's discretion.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79600000 - Recruitment services

Contract locations

- UKF3 - Lincolnshire

Lot 1. Lot 1 - Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work

Description

This will cover all other eligible economically inactive participants, with assessment having a primary focus on providers' ability, experience and readiness to integrate with relevant partners to their preferred participant groups for example, healthcare or veterans' support groups.

Lot value (estimated)

- £750,000 excluding VAT
- £1,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 1A. Lot 1(a) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work Lincolnshire

Description

This will cover Lincolnshire and all other eligible economically inactive participants, with

assessment having a primary focus on providers' ability, experience and readiness to integrate with relevant partners to their preferred participant groups for example, healthcare or veterans' support groups.

Lot value (estimated)

- £7,000,000 excluding VAT
- £7,400,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 1B. Lot 1 (b) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North Lincolnshire

Description

This will cover North Lincolnshire and all other eligible economically inactive participants, with assessment having a primary focus on providers' ability, experience and readiness to integrate with relevant partners to their preferred participant groups for example, healthcare or veterans' support groups.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,000,000 excluding VAT
- £1,200,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 1C. Lot 1 (c) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North East Lincolnshire

Description

This will cover North East Lincolnshire all other eligible economically inactive participants, with assessment having a primary focus on providers' ability, experience and readiness to integrate with relevant partners to their preferred participant groups for example, healthcare or veterans' support groups.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,700,000 excluding VAT
- £1,900,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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. Lot 2 Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)

Description

SEQF Lot for those eligible and suitable economically inactive participants with Learning Difficulties or Autism and Care Leavers.

Lot value (estimated)

- £750,000 excluding VAT
- £1,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 2A. Lot 2 (a) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) Lincolnshire

Description

SEQF Lot for those eligible and suitable economically inactive participants with Learning Difficulties or Autism and Care Leavers within Lincolnshire.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,200,000 excluding VAT
- £1,400,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 2B. Lot 2 (b) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North Lincolnshire

Description

SEQF Lot for those eligible and suitable economically inactive participants with Learning Difficulties or Autism and Care Leavers within North Lincolnshire.

Lot value (estimated)

- £700,000 excluding VAT
- £950,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 2C. Lot 2 (c) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North East Lincolnshire

Description

SEQF Lot for those eligible and suitable economically inactive participants with Learning Difficulties or Autism and Care Leavers within North East Lincolnshire.

Lot value (estimated)

- £1,000,000 excluding VAT
- £1,200,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 3. Lot 3 In Work Retention Support

Description

Open to all eligible and suitable participants who are employed and at risk of dropping out of work due to their health condition, disability or other eligible condition. Procurement for this lot will require knowledge and experience of employment law, providing appropriate employer support and knowledge of and access to support structures available to employees, for example occupational health.

Lot value (estimated)

- £750,000 excluding VAT
- £1,000,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 3A. Lot 3 (a) In Work Retention Support Lincolnshire

Description

Open to all eligible and suitable participants within Lincolnshire who are employed and at risk of dropping out of work due to their health condition, disability or other eligible condition. Procurement for this lot will require knowledge and experience of employment law, providing appropriate employer support and knowledge of and access to support structures available to employees, for example occupational health.

Lot value (estimated)

- £600,000 excluding VAT
- £750,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 3B. Lot 3 (b) In Work Retention Support North Lincolnshire

Description

Open to all eligible and suitable participants within North Lincolnshire who are employed and at risk of dropping out of work due to their health condition, disability or other eligible condition. Procurement for this lot will require knowledge and experience of employment law, providing appropriate employer support and knowledge of and access to support structures available to employees, for example occupational health.

Lot value (estimated)

- £100,000 excluding VAT
- £125,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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 3C. Lot 3 (c) In Work Retention Support North East Lincolnshire

Description

Open to all eligible and suitable participants within North East Lincolnshire who are employed and at risk of dropping out of work due to their health condition, disability or other eligible condition. Procurement for this lot will require knowledge and experience of employment law, providing appropriate employer support and knowledge of and access to support structures available to employees, for example occupational health.

Lot value (estimated)

- £150,000 excluding VAT

- £175,000 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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.

Framework

Open framework scheme end date (estimated)

31 October 2033

Maximum number of suppliers

Unlimited

Maximum percentage fee charged to suppliers

0%

Framework operation description

The aim of the Open Framework for the Connect to Work Programme is to seek suitable providers to support in the successful delivery of the Greater Lincolnshire programme expectations.

The Open Framework will be procured and maintained by Lincolnshire County Council (the Council). The Open Framework will be accessible to the following public sector

bodies:

- Lincolnshire County Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council

To enable providers to be awarded the schemes which most suit their skills and expertise, the framework has been divided into three separate Lots, each Lot divided into further Sub-Lots based on Greater Lincolnshire geography. Each Lot has a specific scope detailing the work likely to be delivered and these are detailed below.

- Lot 1 - Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work

This will cover all other eligible economically inactive participants, with assessment having a primary focus on providers' ability, experience and readiness to integrate with relevant partners to their preferred participant groups for example, healthcare or veterans' support groups.

- o Lot 1 (a) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work Lincolnshire
- o Lot 1 (b) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North Lincolnshire
- o Lot 1 (c) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North East Lincolnshire

- Lot 2 - Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)

SEQF Lot for those eligible and suitable economically inactive participants with Learning Difficulties or Autism and Care Leavers.

- o Lot 2 (a) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) Lincolnshire
- o Lot 2 (b) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North Lincolnshire
- o Lot 2 (c) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North East Lincolnshire

- Lot 3 In Work Retention Support

Open to all eligible and suitable participants who are employed and at risk of dropping out of work due to their health condition, disability or other eligible condition. Procurement for this lot will require knowledge and experience of employment law, providing appropriate employer support and knowledge of and access to support structures available to employees, for example occupational health.

- o Lot 3 (a) In Work Retention Support Lincolnshire
- o Lot 3 (b) In Work Retention Support North Lincolnshire
- o Lot 3 (c) In Work Retention Support North East Lincolnshire

It is anticipated that most Call-Off contracts will be awarded via Further Competitions. The Further Competition procedure will include all Service Providers within the appropriate Lot or Sub-Lot who will be afforded the opportunity to tender for the work. It is expected that Service Providers will respond to the majority of opportunities and must notify the Council of the specific reasons should they not do so.

While most Call-Off Order Contracts will be awarded through Further Competitions, the participating councils reserve the right to make a Direct Award under the Open Framework, subject to at least one of the following conditions being met:

- The Provider is the sole suitable provider for a specific delivery requirement (e.g., geographic coverage, specialist provision).
- There is a genuine urgency or time-limited funding requirement that precludes a full Further Competition.
- The requirement is a continuation or expansion of a successful existing contract where a change of provider would lead to disruption or inefficiency.
- The estimated value of the Call-Off Order is below the government's published goods and services financial threshold.

Award method when using the framework

Either with or without competition

Contracting authorities that may use the framework

- Lincolnshire County Council
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Council

Contracting authority location restrictions

- UKF3 - Lincolnshire

Participation

Particular suitability

Lot 1. Lot 1 - Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work

Lot 1A. Lot 1(a) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work Lincolnshire

Lot 1B. Lot 1 (b) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North Lincolnshire

Lot 1C. Lot 1 (c) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North East Lincolnshire

Lot 2. Lot 2 Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)

Lot 2A. Lot 2 (a) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) Lincolnshire

Lot 2B. Lot 2 (b) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North Lincolnshire

Lot 2C. Lot 2 (c) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North East Lincolnshire

Lot 3. Lot 3 In Work Retention Support

Lot 3A. Lot 3 (a) In Work Retention Support Lincolnshire

Lot 3B. Lot 3 (b) In Work Retention Support North Lincolnshire

Lot 3C. Lot 3 (c) In Work Retention Support North East Lincolnshire

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

Submission

Enquiry deadline

23 September 2025, 12:00pm

Tender submission deadline

6 October 2025, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

<https://procontract.due-north.com/>

Tenders may be submitted electronically

Yes

Languages that may be used for submission

English

Award decision date (estimated)

27 October 2025

Award criteria

Lot 1. Lot 1 - Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work**Lot 1A. Lot 1(a) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work Lincolnshire****Lot 1B. Lot 1 (b) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North Lincolnshire****Lot 1C. Lot 1 (c) Individual Placement and Supported (IPS) Out of Work North East Lincolnshire****Lot 2. Lot 2 Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF)****Lot 2A. Lot 2 (a) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) Lincolnshire****Lot 2B. Lot 2 (b) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North Lincolnshire****Lot 2C. Lot 2 (c) Supported Employment Quality Framework (SEQF) North East Lincolnshire**

Name	Description	Type
Case of Need	Pass/ Fail	Quality
Participant Engagement and Support	Pass/ Fail	Quality
Employer Engagement	Pass/ Fail	Quality
Fidelity Model	Pass/ Fail	Quality

Weighting description

Quality Pass/ Fail

Lot Lot 3. Lot 3 In Work Retention Support**Lot 3A. Lot 3 (a) In Work Retention Support Lincolnshire****Lot 3B. Lot 3 (b) In Work Retention Support North Lincolnshire****Lot 3C. Lot 3 (c) In Work Retention Support North East Lincolnshire**

Name	Description	Type
Case of Need	Pass/ Fail	Quality

Name	Description	Type
Participant Engagement and Support	Pass/ Fail	Quality
Employer Engagement	Pass/ Fail	Quality
In Work Retention	Pass/ Fail	Quality

Weighting description

Quality Pass/ Fail

Other information

Applicable trade agreements

- Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Special regime

Light touch

Documents

Associated tender documents

<https://procontract.due-north.com/Advert?advertId=97476813-d288-f011-813a-005056b64545&fromProjectDashboard=True>

The tender documents are available via the Pro-Contract website.

Contracting authority

Lincolnshire County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PGRB-3736-CHZN

County Offices, Newland

Lincoln

LN1 1YL

United Kingdom

Contact name: Lucy Reed

Email: Procurement.Lincolnshire@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>

Region: UKF30 - Lincolnshire

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government