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Award

## Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

East Durham College

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-054244

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05601b ([view related notices](#))

Published 5 September 2025, 12:08pm

## Scope

## Reference

EDC-ASF-25-26

## Description

2 Organisations to deliver Adult Education Courses to people aged 19 years and over who live in the North East Combined Authority area. Based on an 80/20 split the contract value will be a maximum of £450,000 and will be at the discretion of the college to determine the split between suppliers.

Provision is expected to be part time and will be linked to the North East Combined Authority Strategic Aims for each area in sector areas 4 Engineering and 5 Construction which moves adults either directly into jobs or closer to the employment market.

Positive progression will be into employment, further learning or improved prospects.

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## Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

### Description

East Durham College is looking to secure a maximum of 2 organisations to deliver adult education courses to people aged 19 years and over who live in postcodes within the North East Combined Authority area. The contract value will be based on an 80/20 split. The full contract value will be a maximum of £450,000 - Tenderers are invited to bid for the contract amount they can effectively deliver within the specified contract requirements, it will then be at the discretion of the College to determine the split of the contract award. This may be split as incremental awards throughout the academic year dependent on achievement of deliverables. Adults must live in an address with a North East Combined Authority postcode, it is not the delivery location. Provision is expected to be part-time and must be linked to the North East Combined Authority Strategic Aims for each area. East Durham College is only seeking provision in subject sector areas 4 (Engineering) and 5 (Construction), which moves adults either directly into jobs or closer to the employment market. We will not accept large volumes of employability provision or distance learning. We would expect all the funded provision to be ASF funded and not Free Courses for Jobs. The training must be delivered in full by the contracted training provider, i.e. only one level of sub-contracting is permitted, no second level subcontracting is permitted. The quality of provision and subcontractor financial health will be paramount as the College will retain responsibility to the North East Combined Authority and OFSTED for programme quality. Financial health and inspection outcomes are mandatory elements of the assessment process which can lead to instant exclusion from the tender process. Where a credit rating shows an above average risk or an Ofsted outcome is less than Good, we will reject a tender unless there are exceptional circumstances given. Where these are given, the college will require a face to face meeting for further investigation of evidence to decide whether the tender can go forward for further review. The estimated contract value reflects the funding value of learning to be delivered and will be subject to a management fee which will not exceed 20%. Providers must have experience of delivering provision to meet local skills needs and be able to provide verified data in the following areas: Achievement rates which are above national averages High levels of positive progression into employment History of achieving contracts in the last two years The positive progression must be into employment, further learning or improved prospects. We are not looking to deliver generic employability programmes. We will only look to contract with providers who have a history of delivering in the North East and they must have a permanent base in the North East. We will not accept tenders from organisations based

outside of the geographical area who intend to rent premises to undertake his delivery. Checks will be carried out to ascertain longevity of operation in the North East.

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## **Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)**

### **Description**

East Durham College is looking to secure a maximum of 2 organisations to deliver adult education courses to people aged 19 years and over who live in postcodes within the North East Combined Authority area. The contract value will be based on an 80/20 split. The full contract value will be a maximum of £450,000 - Tenderers are invited to bid for the contract amount they can effectively deliver within the specified contract requirements, it will then be at the discretion of the College to determine the split of the contract award. This may be split as incremental awards throughout the academic year dependent on achievement of deliverables. Adults must live in an address with a North East Combined Authority postcode, it is not the delivery location. Provision is expected to be part-time and must be linked to the North East Combined Authority Strategic Aims for each area. East Durham College is only seeking provision in subject sector areas 4 (Engineering) and 5 (Construction), which moves adults either directly into jobs or closer to the employment market. We will not accept large volumes of employability provision or distance learning. We would expect all the funded provision to be ASF funded and not Free Courses for Jobs. The training must be delivered in full by the contracted training provider, i.e. only one level of sub-contracting is permitted, no second level subcontracting is permitted. The quality of provision and subcontractor financial health will be paramount as the College will retain responsibility to the North East Combined Authority and OFSTED for programme quality. Financial health and inspection outcomes are mandatory elements of the assessment process which can lead to instant exclusion from the tender process. Where a credit rating shows an above average risk or an Ofsted outcome is less than Good, we will reject a tender unless there are exceptional circumstances given. Where these are given, the college will require a face to face meeting for further investigation of evidence to decide whether the tender can go forward for further review. The estimated contract value reflects the funding value of learning to be delivered and will be subject to a management fee which will not exceed 20%. Providers must have experience of delivering provision to meet local skills needs and be able to provide verified data in the following areas: Achievement rates which are above national averages High levels of positive progression into employment History of achieving contracts in the last two years The positive progression must be into employment, further learning or improved prospects. We are not looking to deliver generic employability programmes. We will only look to contract with providers who have a history of delivering in the North East and they must have a permanent base in the North East. We will not accept tenders from organisations based

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## **Contract 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (1)**

### **Lots**

Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

### **Supplier**

- STAFF POWER TRAINING LIMITED

### **Contract value**

- £250,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

### **Award decision date**

3 September 2025

### **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

4 September 2025

**Standstill period**

- End: 16 September 2025
- 8 working days

**Earliest date the contract will be signed**

19 September 2025

**Contract dates (estimated)**

- 22 September 2025 to 31 July 2026
- 10 months, 9 days

**Main procurement category**

Services

**CPV classifications**

- 80000000 - Education and training services

**Contract locations**

- UKC - North East (England)

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**Contract 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)**

## **Lots**

Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)

## **Supplier**

- LEARNING CURVE GROUP LIMITED

## **Contract value**

- £250,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

## **Award decision date**

3 September 2025

## **Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers**

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## **Standstill period**

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### **Contract locations**

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## **Information about tenders**

### **Lot 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery**

- 9 tenders received
- 9 tenders assessed in the final stage:
  - 9 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
  - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 1 supplier awarded contracts

- 8 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
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## **Lot 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)**

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    - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
  - 1 supplier awarded contracts
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## **Procedure**

### **Procedure type**

Open procedure

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## **Suppliers**

### **LEARNING CURVE GROUP LIMITED**

- Companies House: 05233487
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMCY-9543-YJZV

Learning Curve Group, 1-10 Dunelm Rise



Spennymoor

DL16 6FS

United Kingdom

Email: [Tenders@learningcurvegroup.co.uk](mailto:Tenders@learningcurvegroup.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.learningcurvegroup.co.uk>

Region: UKC14 - Durham CC

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 2. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (2)

## **STAFF POWER TRAINING LIMITED**

- Companies House: 12033942

Mackies Corner Chambers

Sunderland

SR1 1TX

United Kingdom

Email: [lee@staffpowergroup.com](mailto:lee@staffpowergroup.com)

Website: <http://www.staffpowergroup.com>

Region: UKC23 - Sunderland

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Supported employment provider: No

Public service mutual: No

Contract 1. Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery (1)

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## **Contracting authority**

### **East Durham College**

- UK Register of Learning Providers (UKPRN number): 10002111
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXPM-1872-RCYW

Willerby Grove

Co Durham

SR8 2RN

United Kingdom

Email: [joanne.wilson@eastdurham.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.wilson@eastdurham.ac.uk)

Region: UKC14 - Durham CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government

