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Award

Highways & Infrastructure Planning Solution (HIPS)

Essex County Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-059038

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05a082 ([view related notices](#))

Published 23 September 2025, 5:42pm

Scope

Reference

CO0103

Description

Essex County Council (The Authority) is seeking to procure a single cross departmental solution for managing planning responses, management of onsite activities through to adoption of new highway assets, including the management of developer contributions (S106), ensuring Essex County Council is supported by the best technology in its day-to-day operations and can deliver its statutory duties.

This contract is for an initial term of 5 years, following the initial term the contract will continue on a rolling basis until terminated subject to the Term and Termination clauses of the Terms and Conditions that were published at tender stage.

Contract 1

Supplier

- DEF SOFTWARE LIMITED

Contract value

- £387,833.97 excluding VAT
- £465,400.76 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Earliest date the contract will be signed

6 October 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 9 October 2025 to 8 October 2030
- 5 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 30196000 - Planning systems
- 72260000 - Software-related services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)
- UKD - North West (England)
- UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber
- UKF - East Midlands (England)
- UKG - West Midlands (England)
- UKH - East of England
- UKI - London
- UKJ - South East (England)
- UKK - South West (England)

Other information

Description of risks to contract performance

To note we have stated there are no extensions available on this contract, this is an Evergreen contract and will continue until either party chooses to terminate, giving a 2 year notice period.

Conflicts assessment prepared/revised

Yes

Procedure

Procedure type

Direct award

Direct award justification

Switching to direct award

A competitive tender opportunity was published under PCR 2015 open procedure, no bids were received. Following contacting those who expressed interest in the tender (ProContract DN750676) and previous PIN (<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/notice/181034f7-e48d-41cd-8472-9542e68d9858?origin=SearchResults&p=1>), a single supplier was identified to fulfil the contract as published and rectified inability to complete tender response.

Negotiation of a contract in the absence of competition permitted by regulation 32(2)(a) PCR 2015, with similar provisions in PA 2023 will be used to direct award. Decision has been made to, although published under PCR 2015, satisfy the Transparency Notice requirements under PA2023.

Supplier

DEF SOFTWARE LIMITED

- Companies House: 06813292

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXQN-2631-NPTR

Washington Business Centre

Sunderland

SR5 3NZ

United Kingdom

Email: enquiries@def.co.uk

Website: <http://def.co.uk>

Region: UKC23 - Sunderland

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Email: abbey.wellington@essex.gov.uk

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

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government