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Contract

Kent County Council (KCC) Skills Programme DPS - SC240120

Kent County Council

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-067432

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04deca

Published 22 October 2025, 12:06pm

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

Kent County Council

County Hall

Maidstone

ME141XQ

Contact

Jordan Gurr

Email

jordan.gurr@kent.gov.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ4 - Kent

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/>

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Regional or local authority

I.5) Main activity

Other activity

Local Authority

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

Kent County Council (KCC) Skills Programme DPS - SC240120

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 80000000 - Education and training services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Community Learning and Skills (CLS) is Kent County Council's (KCC) internally commissioned department responsible for delivering education and training to adults and young people over 16. CLS manages the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Adult Skills Fund (ASF), Greater London Authority (GLA) budget, and ESFA 'Study Programme' courses for young people aged 16-19, including those not in education, employment, or training (NEET). These initiatives support the goals and objectives of Framing Kent's Future.

In response to the Skills for Jobs White Paper and its consultation outcomes, from 1st August 2024, the Department for Education (DfE)/ESFA Adult Education Budget has been restructured to become the Adult Skills Fund. This change introduces new 'Learning Aims' for CLS's £6.7m of 'Tailored Learning Funding', covering a wide range of vocational and essential skills courses designed to support learners in various stages of their educational and career journeys.

The changes have included redefining partner organisations who CLS have previously worked with in a 'partnership delivery' relationship, as sub-contractors 'By subcontracting we mean any delivery to a learner's programme of learning by a third party.'

KCC CLS are seeking to offer a flexible opportunity of externally Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) provision for adults, to support both previously offered 'partnership' courses for niche provision such as for Deaf/deaf learners, and growth in vocational areas (those in Green in table above), that meet local labour market needs.

There is a recognised national shortage of staff with appropriate skills, experience and qualifications, especially to support for delivery in some vocational areas, which is now a

focus of ESFA funding. Outsourcing delivery to appropriate partners would offer an opportunity to deliver, particularly where less than a full-time post is required i.e. whilst growing delivery in a new vocational area.

This tender process is to allow Tenderers to bid to join a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) and sign a contract with The Authority such that they can then be allocated work as the need arises.

The Dynamic Purchasing System is split into two (2) Lots which reflect the category of learner in receipt of education services.

Lot 1

Lot 1 relates to Skills programmes to be delivered to Adult Skills Fund Learners.

Adult Skills Fund Learners means learners who are eligible for funding pursuant to the Adult Skills Fund Rules. The Adult Skills Fund is the funding allocated to the Authority by the Education and Skills Funding Agency on behalf of the Department for Education for the provision of continuing learning programmes for adults.

Lot 2

Lot 2 relates to study programmes to be delivered to Study Programmes Fund Learners.

Study Programme Fund Learners means learners who are eligible for funding pursuant to the Study Programme Fund Rules. The Study Programme Fund is the funding allocated to the Council by the Education and Skills Funding Agency on behalf of the Department of Education for the provision of 16 to 19 study programmes for individuals who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in accordance with the Study Programme Fund Rules.

It is the Authority's intention is to establish and begin awarding work for Lot 1 for Adult Skills Fund related study programmes from the commencement date of the contract.

As per Clause 3.3 of DPS Admission Agreement, the Authority reserves the right to vary the contract to introduce and establish Lot 2 for 16-19 aged children who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and other vulnerable young people. For the avoidance of doubt, no Tenderer will be admitted to Lot 2 and/or allocated work in relation to Lot 2 until such time that the Authority, in its absolute discretion, elects to establish Lot 2.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)

Value excluding VAT: £3,000,000

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ4 - Kent

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

As above (see Description)

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

II.2.11) Information about options

Options: No

II.2.14) Additional information

This is being run as a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation with combined Selection and Award.

This Contract Award Notice details all suppliers awarded a Contract through Round 1 of the DPS.

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.1) Type of procedure

Restricted procedure

IV.1.3) Information about a framework agreement or a dynamic purchasing system

The procurement involves the setting up of a dynamic purchasing system

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2025/S 000-004979](#)

Section V. Award of contract

Contract No

SC240120

Title

Round 1

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

16 October 2025

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 32

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

The Blackthorn Trust

Maidstone

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ4 - Kent

Companies House

05964574

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

London Vesta College Limited

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

Companies House

05394126

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

PARENTA TRAINING LIMITED

Maidstone

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ4 - Kent

Companies House

05932259

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

ROLE TRAINING LIMITED

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

Companies House

11016247

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

RUNWAY APPRENTICESHIPS LIMITED trading as Runway Training

Surrey

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKJ2 - Surrey, East and West Sussex

Companies House

08957135

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

SKILLS PROVIDER LIMITED

Essex

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKH3 - Essex

Companies House

13096448

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

THE FORWARD TRUST

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

Companies House

02560474

The contractor is an SME

No

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

THE TRAINING PLACE OF EXCELLENCE LIMITED

London

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKI - London

Companies House

07483773

The contractor is an SME

Yes

V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot (excluding VAT)

Total value of the contract/lot: £1,500,000

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This is being run as a Competitive Procedure with Negotiation with combined Selection and Award.

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

Kent County Council

Maidstone

Country

United Kingdom