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Planning

704_26 Outsourced Catering Services and Procurement Support

Leicestershire County Council, trading as ESPO

UK2: Preliminary market engagement notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-067484

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-051159 ([view related notices](#))

Published 22 October 2025, 1:38pm

Scope

Reference

704_26

Description

ESPO are conducting preliminary market engagement with the intention of renewing its outsourced catering services framework, with the inclusion of a procurement and contract management support for outsourcing catering services. It is anticipated the new framework will be awarded during summer 2026.

The new Framework is expected to include the following Lots:

Lot 1. Education Outsourced Catering Services

Lot 2. Social Care Outsourced Catering Services

Lot 3. Public Sector Outsourced Catering Services

Lot 4. Procurement and Contract Management Support for Outsourced Catering Services

Prior to retendering, ESPO is seeking to engage with the market to help shape the new framework to ensure it meets the needs of both suppliers and customers.

Please note this is not a call for competition, the tender documentation is not yet available.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Total value (estimated)

- £240,000,000 including VAT

Above the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2028
- Possible extension to 31 August 2030
- 4 years

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 55500000 - Canteen and catering services

- 79418000 - Procurement consultancy services

Contract locations

- UK - United Kingdom

Engagement

Engagement deadline

9 January 2026

Engagement process description

Suppliers are required to register and complete the relevant stages on the Central Digital Platform if they wish to participate or bid for this framework.

Request for Information:

Engagement is being undertaken via two Request for Information (RFI) questionnaires hosted on the EastMidsTenders eProcurement Portal (www.eastmidstenders.org). The deadline for responding to the RFI questionnaires is 17:00 (5pm) on 17 December 2025.

Suppliers wishing to participate in the RFI MUST first express an interest as follows:

(a) Go to <https://www.eastmidstenders.org/>; (b) Register (if not already registered on ProContract); (c) Search for opportunity '704_26' (via "View Opportunities" from the EastMidsTenders Portal); d) Express an interest.

Suppliers can access and respond to the RFI questionnaires in the Messages section of the eProcurement Portal (via the Activity dashboard once an expression of interest has been registered). Any questions or clarifications should similarly be submitted to ESPO as a message on the eProcurement Portal.

ESPO may contact suppliers to seek clarification or understanding of the information

provided in their RFI response or to discuss their RFI responses in further detail.

Participation

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Publication date of tender notice (estimated)

13 February 2026

Contracting authority

Leicestershire County Council, trading as ESPO

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYDD-1122-TCVN

Barnsdale Way, Grove Park, Enderby

Leicester

LE19 1ES

United Kingdom

Contact name: Food, Communities and Technology Procurement Team

Email: tenders@espo.org

Website: <https://www.espo.org/>

Region: UKF22 - Leicestershire CC and Rutland

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government