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Award

Internal Audit Specialists Framework

Essex County Council

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

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-077055

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05a92c ([view related notices](#))

Published 25 November 2025, 8:24pm

Scope

Reference

E005PA

Description

The scope of this requirement is to create a Framework of Internal Audit Specialists to support ECC's existing Internal Audit function in providing independent, objective assurance and consulting services for the council.

It is proposed that the Framework would be procured on terms which would allow access for Unitary, City, Borough and District Councils. These Contracting Bodies will be responsible for ordering of, and payment for, their own services through this agreement.

The Framework will be split into the following Lots.

Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Lot 4 - General Audits

Bidders can bid for any Lot or all Lots if they can meet the requirements.

Successful bidders will be placed on a ranking list which will be based on the total score awarded following the evaluation of bids received (Please refer to the Bidder Guidance for details on the evaluation process).

The requirements will be met through a capability assessment process, as and when a new requirement is identified the capability assessment will be issued to the top ranked bidder in the specific Lot under which the requirement sits. Where that bidder is unable to meet the requirement, the next ranked bidder will be issued the capability assessment and so on until a bidder is chosen.

Any Contracting Body using this Framework shall abide by the same process for fulfilling their requirements.

The initial term of the Framework is three (3) years with an option to extend for a further period of 12months.

The government's English Devolution White Paper, Power and Partnership: Foundations for Growth, published on 16 December 2024, states that the government wants all remaining two-tier areas in England to be eventually restructured into single-tier unitary authorities and is termed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This reorganisation is part of a broader devolution strategy to simplify local government structures, save public funds, and improve local accountability. LGR will impact the County of Essex as it currently operates a two-tier Local Government structure.

It is anticipated, that during the life of this framework, the LGR process will commence and/or progress potentially impacting this framework. Impacts may include, but are not limited to, modifications such as a transfer of the legal entity you currently contract with, significant increases and/or decreases in the services required due to the change in size/scope of the Contracting Authority, and/or changes to the scope of the nature of services required. Although any contract scope changes should broadly relate to the nature of the existing scope, new services of a related nature may be required that were not previously included.

The scale and exact timing of the changes are unknown at this point, but it is known that LGR will impact the County of Essex. All suppliers who work with the Authority need to be aware and where possible, work with the Authority to adapt to any changes/modifications as required to ensure smooth transition and continuity of services.

Commercial tool

Establishes a framework

Lot 1. Contract Audits

Description

These audits scrutinise third-party contracts and procurement activities to ensure value for money, compliance with terms, and effective contract management. They may include supplier performance reviews, contract lifecycle assessments, and post-award evaluations. Recommended Qualifications: • CIPS (Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply) qualification. • Legal or commercial contract management certification. • Internal audit qualification with procurement audit experience. Expertise: • Deep understanding of contract lifecycle, procurement regulations, and supplier performance. • Experience in post-award audits, value-for-money assessments, and compliance reviews. • Ability to identify risks and inefficiencies in third-party arrangements.

Lot 2. Project and Programme Audits

Description

These audits evaluate the effectiveness of project and programme management practices. They assess delivery against objectives, budget control, governance structures, risk management, and benefits realisation. Suitable for capital programmes, transformation initiatives, and strategic projects. Recommended Qualifications: • PRINCE2 Practitioner or MSP (Managing Successful Programmes). • APM PMQ or equivalent project management qualification. • Internal audit qualification (CIA, CMIIA) with project audit experience. Expertise: • Experience auditing large-scale programmes and

transformation initiatives. • Understanding of project governance, risk management, and benefits realisation. • Ability to assess delivery against objectives, timelines, and budgets.

Lot 3. Technology Specialist Audits

Description

Focused on IT systems, digital services, cybersecurity, data governance, and infrastructure. These audits require specialist knowledge to assess risks related to system integrity, data protection, and technology resilience. They may include penetration testing, system configuration reviews, and IT project assurance. Recommended Qualifications: • Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). • ISO 27001 Lead Auditor or equivalent. • Cyber Essentials or similar accreditation. Expertise: • Proficiency in IT risk assessment, cybersecurity, and data governance. • Experience with auditing cloud platforms, infrastructure, and digital services. • Knowledge of public sector IT compliance and digital transformation.

Lot 4. General Audits

Description

These audits cover broad assurance activities across ECC's operations, including governance, risk management, and internal controls. They assess compliance with policies, procedures, and regulations, and provide recommendations for improvement. Typical areas may include Finance, HR, and operational processes. Recommended Qualifications: • Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (CIA) qualification or equivalent. • ACCA, CIPFA, or ICAEW membership with internal audit experience. • Demonstrable experience in public sector internal auditing. Expertise: • Strong understanding of governance, risk, and control frameworks. • Experience auditing core business functions (e.g., finance, HR, procurement). • Ability to produce clear, evidence-based audit reports and recommendations.

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Lots

Lot 1. Contract Audits

Suppliers (8)

- BDO LLP
- C-F BUSINESS LINKS LIMITED
- CPP ADVISORY LLP
- FORVIS MAZARS LLP
- HW CONTROLS & ASSURANCE LIMITED
- MENZIES LLP
- SHARP CONTRACT & SURVEYING LTD
- TIAA LTD

Contract value

- £118,750 excluding VAT
- £142,500 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Below the relevant threshold

Award decision date

24 November 2025

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

25 November 2025

Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 21 December 2028
- Possible extension to 21 December 2029
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

Where the authority decides that services are still required.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79212200 - Internal audit services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex
-

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Lots

Lot 2. Project and Programme Audits

Suppliers (14)

- AGILE PROJECT DELIVERY LTD
- ATHENA P3M LTD
- BDO LLP
- C-F BUSINESS LINKS LIMITED
- CPP ADVISORY LLP
- FORVIS MAZARS LLP
- HW CONTROLS & ASSURANCE LIMITED
- LITTLECHILD & HALEY LTD
- MENZIES LLP
- MHA AUDIT SERVICES LLP
- ONE EIGHTY ADVISORY LIMITED
- SHARP CONTRACT & SURVEYING LTD
- TIAA LTD
- TICKBOX SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Contract value

- £118,750 excluding VAT
- £142,500 including VAT

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Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 21 December 2028
- Possible extension to 21 December 2029
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

Where the Authority deems it is necessary to continue with the services

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79212100 - Financial auditing services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex
-

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Lots

Lot 3. Technology Specialist Audits

Suppliers (15)

- BDO LLP
- C-F BUSINESS LINKS LIMITED
- FORVIS MAZARS LLP
- HW CONTROLS & ASSURANCE LIMITED
- LITTLECHILD & HALEY LTD
- MENZIES LLP
- MHA AUDIT SERVICES LLP
- PGI - Protection Group International Ltd

- PRINCIPLE DEFENCE LTD
- SOUTH WEST AUDIT PARTNERSHIP LIMITED
- SYSTRA LIMITED
- THAMESVIEW SOLUTIONS LIMITED
- TIAA LTD
- TICKBOX SOLUTIONS LIMITED
- VINULA CONSULTING LTD

Contract value

- £118,750 excluding VAT
- £142,500 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

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Award decision date

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15 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 21 December 2028
- Possible extension to 21 December 2029
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

Where the Authority deems that there is still a requirement for these services.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79212200 - Internal audit services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex
-

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

Lots

Lot 4. General Audits

Suppliers (10)

- BDO LLP
- C-F BUSINESS LINKS LIMITED
- FORVIS MAZARS LLP
- HW CONTROLS & ASSURANCE LIMITED
- LITTLECHILD & HALEY LTD
- MENZIES LLP
- MHA AUDIT SERVICES LLP
- SOUTH WEST AUDIT PARTNERSHIP LIMITED
- TIAA LTD
- TICKBOX SOLUTIONS LIMITED

Contract value

- £118,750 excluding VAT
- £142,500 including VAT

Framework lot values may be shared with other lots

Below the relevant threshold

Award decision date

24 November 2025

Date assessment summaries were sent to tenderers

25 November 2025

Earliest date the contract will be signed

15 December 2025

Contract dates (estimated)

- 22 December 2025 to 21 December 2028
- Possible extension to 21 December 2029
- 4 years

Description of possible extension:

Where the Authority deems it necessary to continue the services

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 79212200 - Internal audit services

Contract locations

- UKH3 - Essex

Information about tenders

Lot 1. Contract Audits

- 8 tenders received
 - 8 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 5 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
 - 8 suppliers awarded contracts
 - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
-

Lot 2. Project and Programme Audits

- 14 tenders received
 - 14 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 10 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
 - 14 suppliers awarded contracts
 - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
-

Lot 3. Technology Specialist Audits

- 15 tenders received
 - 15 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 10 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
 - 15 suppliers awarded contracts
 - 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)
-

Lot 4. General Audits

- 10 tenders received
- 10 tenders assessed in the final stage:
 - 6 submitted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
 - 0 submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSE)
- 10 suppliers awarded contracts
- 0 suppliers unsuccessful (details included for contracts over £5 million)

Procedure

Procedure type

Open procedure

Suppliers

AGILE PROJECT DELIVERY LTD

- Companies House: 11109878
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDCD-1449-HHRY

51a Saint Michael's Street

London

W2 1QR

United Kingdom

Email: anna@agileprojectdelivery.co.uk

Website: <https://agileprojectdelivery.co.uk/>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

ATHENA P3M LTD

- Companies House: 16489348
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJCD-1233-NDBZ

71 Sutton Court Road

London

W4 3EQ

United Kingdom

Email: tyler.skerton@athenap3m.com

Website: <http://athenap3m.com>

Region: UKI75 - Hounslow and Richmond upon Thames

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

BDO LLP

- Companies House: OC305127
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMQV-8736-WMJD

55 Baker Street

London

W1U 7EU

United Kingdom

Email: publicsectorsales@bdo.co.uk

Website: <https://www.bdo.co.uk>

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

C-F BUSINESS LINKS LIMITED

- Companies House: 07524623
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMHT-2898-MTLW

25 Clarendon Road

Redhill

RH1 1QZ

United Kingdom

Email: cecelia.fadipe@cfbusinesslinks.com

Website: <https://www.cfbusinesslinks.com/>

Region: UKJ26 - East Surrey

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

CPP ADVISORY LLP

- Companies House: OC454557
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PTMW-2284-WLJJ

167-169 Great Portland Street

London

W1W 5PF

United Kingdom

Email: admin@cppadvisory.com

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

Region: UKI32 - Westminster

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

FORVIS MAZARS LLP

- Companies House: OC308299
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PNCL-5949-VHVD

30 Old Bailey

London

EC4M 7AU

United Kingdom

Email: pstenders@mazars.co.uk

Website: <https://www.forvismazars.com/group/en>

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

HW CONTROLS & ASSURANCE LIMITED

- Companies House: 08746974
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PCYW-3639-LDHL

Unit 3 Crompton Court

Burntwood

WS7 3GG

United Kingdom

Email: hello@validera.co.uk

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

Region: UKG24 - Staffordshire CC

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

LITTLECHILD & HALEY LTD

- Companies House: 16141254
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PCMX-1372-MVJL

33 Cathedral Road

Cardiff

CF11 9HB

United Kingdom

Email: info@littlechildhaley.co.uk

Website: <https://www.littlechildhaley.co.uk/>

Region: UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

MENZIES LLP

- Companies House: OC336077
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYXZ-2216-QBYH

4th Floor 95 Gresham Street

London

EC2V 7AB

United Kingdom

Email: rmccarthy@menzies.co.uk

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

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

MHA AUDIT SERVICES LLP

- Companies House: OC455542
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PYPH-3877-TBRZ

The Pinnacle

Milton Keynes

MK9 1LZ

United Kingdom

Email: webenquiries@mha.co.uk

Website: <https://www.mha.co.uk>

Region: UKJ12 - Milton Keynes

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

ONE EIGHTY ADVISORY LIMITED

- Companies House: 08414388
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXXG-3516-QBYM

86-90 Paul Street

London

EC2A 4NE

United Kingdom

Email: katie@180advisory.com

Website: <http://www.180advisory.com>

Region: UKI41 - Hackney and Newham

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

PGI - Protection Group International Ltd

- Companies House: 07967865

13-14 Angel Gate

London

EC1V 2PT

United Kingdom

Email: Mike.tipson@pgitl.com

Region: UKI43 - Haringey and Islington

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

PRINCIPLE DEFENCE LTD

- Companies House: 13778362
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PMWY-6158-BNNP

65 Knowl Piece Wilbury Way

Hitchin

SG4 0TY

United Kingdom

Email: hello@principledefence.com

Website: <https://principledefence.com/>

Region: UKH23 - Hertfordshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

SHARP CONTRACT & SURVEYING LTD

- Companies House: 07087974
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PXVT-2682-TCQH

21 Coverdale

Lowestoft

NR33 8TD

United Kingdom

Email: info@sharpcands.co.uk

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

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

SOUTH WEST AUDIT PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

- Companies House: 08215338
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDDT-9646-VQJM

Ground Floor, Blackbrook Gate One

Taunton

TA1 2PX

United Kingdom

Email: accounts@swapaudit.co.uk

Website: <https://www.swapaudit.co.uk/>

Region: UKK23 - Somerset

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

SYSTRA LIMITED

- Companies House: 03383212
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PDCT-9245-NWYG

3rd Floor, 1 Carey Lane

London

EC2V 8AE

United Kingdom

Email: tenders_uk@systra.com

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

Region: UKI31 - Camden and City of London

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): No

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

THAMESVIEW SOLUTIONS LIMITED

- Companies House: 06353372
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PZJT-4591-MJLW

Flat 30 St Lawrence House

Reading

RG1 3AG

United Kingdom

Email: bids@thamesviewsolutions.com

Website: <https://thamesviewsolutions.com/>

Region: UKJ11 - Berkshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

TIAA LTD

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBRR-3532-NWYQ

Artillery House, Fort Fareham, Fareham, Hampshire,

Fareham

PO14 1AH

United Kingdom

Email: tenders@tiaa.co.uk

Website: <http://tenders@tiaa.co.uk>

Region: UKJ35 - South Hampshire

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 1. Lot 1 - Contract Audits

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

TICKBOX SOLUTIONS LIMITED

- Companies House: 16565549
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PJPT-8116-QHXN

Suite A, 82 James Carter Road

Mildenhall

IP28 7DE

United Kingdom

Email: audit@tickboxsolutions.co.uk

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

Region: UKH14 - Suffolk

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 2. Lot 2 - Project and Programme Audits

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contract 4. Lot 4 - General Audits

VINULA CONSULTING LTD

- Companies House: 15613857
- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PBDH-4498-WBWW

Suite A-C, Kings House, 68 Victoria Road

Burgess Hill

RH15 9LH

United Kingdom

Email: info@vinula.co.uk

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

Region: UKJ28 - West Sussex (North East)

Small or medium-sized enterprise (SME): Yes

Voluntary, community or social enterprise (VCSE): No

Contract 3. Lot 3 - Technology Specialists

Contracting authority

Essex County Council

- Public Procurement Organisation Number: PWVM-4844-NRQH

County Hall, Market Road

Chelmsford

CM1 1QH

United Kingdom

Email: andrew.beaver@essex.gov.uk

Region: UKH36 - Heart of Essex

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government