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Tender

Adult Skills Fund Course Delivery

East Durham College

UK4: Tender notice - Procurement Act 2023 - [view information about notice types](#)

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-083469

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-05f6f3

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Scope

Description

East Durham College is looking to secure a maximum of 1 organisation 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 £125,000 - Tenderers are invited to bid for the contract value stated that they can effectively deliver within the specified contract requirements. 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.

Total value (estimated)

- £125,000 excluding VAT
- £125,000 including VAT

Below the relevant threshold

Contract dates (estimated)

- 26 January 2026 to 31 July 2026
- 6 months, 6 days

Options

The right to additional purchases while the contract is valid.

There could be scope for additional contract values subject to our requirements, and the successful tenderers performance. This will not exceed the current procurement threshold.

Main procurement category

Services

CPV classifications

- 80400000 - Adult and other education services

Contract locations

- UKC - North East (England)

Participation

This procurement is reserved for

UK suppliers

Conditions of participation

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 County Durham, Sunderland or Gateshead.

Particular suitability

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)

Submission

Enquiry deadline

12 January 2026, 11:59pm

Tender submission deadline

13 January 2026, 12:00pm

Submission address and any special instructions

Please submit tenders to joanne.wilson@eastdurham.ac.uk
procurement@eastdurham.ac.uk as per the tender documents instructions

Tenders may be submitted electronically

No

Award criteria

Name	Type	Weighting
Quality	Quality	85%
Social Value	Quality	15%

Procedure

Procedure type

Below threshold - open competition

Documents

Associated tender documents

[ITT ASF Subcontracting FD Jan26-July26.docx](#)

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

Region: UKC14 - Durham CC

Organisation type: Public authority - sub-central government