

Authority to procure a contract to deliver an RAA Leadership Development Programme and waiver of Contract Procedure Rule 15.2(c).

Date: 29th April 2024

Report of: Commissioning Manager

Report to: National Adoption Strategic Lead

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

In support of the National Adoption Strategy, the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) Leaders Group would like to procure a contract to deliver an RAA Leadership Development Programme.

An open competitive tender will be undertaken in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 8.1 and 8.2. The aim is for the contract to commence 8th July 2024 until 31st December 2025 with no option to extend. The maximum total contract value will be £35,000..

The tender will be evaluated using a combined price/quality split approach with an 80% quality / 20% price split. This requires a waiver of Contract Procedure Rule 15.2(c).

Recommendations

- a) Approve the route to market to undertake a competitive tender process to procure a contractor to deliver an RAA Leadership Development Programme. The contract will commence on 8th July 2024 and will expire on 31st December 2025. The maximum total value be £35,000.
- b) Approve a waiver of Contract Procedure Rule (CPR) 15.2(c) to allow a combined price/quality split approach of 80% quality/20% price.

What is this report about?

- In support of the National Adoption Strategy, the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) Leaders Group would like to procure a contract to deliver an RAA Leadership Development Programme.
- An open competitive tender will be undertaken in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 8.1 and 8.2. The aim is for the contract to commence 8th July 2024 until 31st December 2025 with no option to extend. The maximum total contract value will be £35,000.
- The tender will be evaluated using a combined price/quality split approach of 80% quality/20% price. This requires a waiver of Contracts Procedure Rule 15.2(c).

What impact will this proposal have?

The impact will be demonstrated throughout the programme and going forwards by enhancing the leadership skills of the RAA leaders to enable them to learn and develop themselves, learn and develop others and work together to innovate, create ideas and influence and shape practice.

The contract will do this by:

- Fitting with and embedding our values and behaviours.
- Allowing leaders to learn about themselves as leaders and the impact that their leadership and collective leadership can have with communities and partners.
- Stretching leaders to know the true meaning of participation with people with lived experience.
- Helping leaders to learn to lead beyond their authority.
- Incorporating the true learning and appreciation of proper partnership working within our communities.
- Helping leaders address a strategic challenge during the programme.
- Differentiating between transactional management skills and transformational leadership behaviours and skills.
- Instilling leaders with an awareness of the importance of psychological safety for self and others as well as trauma informed care.
- Embedding the learning and development through personalised activities such as coaching

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 1 This proposal provides strong support for the refreshed Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Council's ambition to be a Child Friendly City. The outcomes delivered through this grant funding will contribute to a number of the outcomes and priorities within the plan, including the outcome to ensure all young people are safe from harm and the priority to help children live in safe and supportive families.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 2 The proposal to procure this contract has been agreed by the RAA leaders group with representatives from statutory and voluntary adoption agencies

What are the resource implications?

- 3 The maximum budget for this contract is £35,000.
- 4 This funding is additional revenue funding that is ring-fenced to deliver the outcomes specified in the DfE grant agreement for 2 years from 2023- 2025. Procuring these contracts will not create additional financial pressure to the Council. Should the contracts not be procured, the Council, in consultation with the National Adoption Strategic Lead, will make other arrangements for the allocated amount with other activity or not claim this amount from the DfE (paid in arrears). Any underspend of funding over the two-year period would also not be claimed.
- 5 A competitive tender exercise will be undertaken utilising the corporate tender documentation including a number of method statement questions and an interview. This is an intermediate value procurement in accordance with CPR 8.1 and 8.2.
- 6 A tender evaluation panel will be made up of representatives from the Governance Group as well as the National Adoption Strategic Lead and Head of Workforce Development

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 The DfE funding must be spent as described in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the DfE and LCC, and contribute towards the intended outcomes of the grant.
- 8 A National Adoption Strategy Team, now called Adoption England, has been established within the Council and will work closely with representatives from the Commissioning and Procurement and Commercial Services to ensure the tender process is undertaken robustly in line with and the Council's CPRs.
- 9 The project team will work in partnership with providers and monitor performance of the contracts to ensure they meet delivery requirements and deliver value of money

What are the legal implications?

1. There are no grounds for keeping the contents of this report confidential under the Access to Information Rules.
2. Undertaking this tender is in line with CPR 8.1 and 8.2 as an Intermediate Value Procurement.
3. This procurement involves the waiver of CPR 15.2(c); the tender will be evaluated using a combined price/quality split approach of 80% quality/20% price for the following reasons:
 - a) This procurement is for leadership and development in a complex area of adoption. This is fundamentally important to the successful implementation of the National Adoption Strategy. It is therefore essential a provider is procured who is able to deliver outstanding quality of leadership and development training.
 - b) The contract will be funded by external ring-fenced grant funding. A budget for this procurement has been set by RAA Leaders based on market engagement and previous experience of commissioning learning and development programmes.
 - c) There is a known market for this contract and so it may be possible to achieve the quality of model required and the intended outcomes for the contract at a lower cost than the set

budget. Any saving would then be reinvested in other services in support of the National Adoption Strategy.

- d) It is therefore deemed appropriate to use a combined price/quality split approach for the evaluation and to have a higher weighting for quality than the standard 60%. This will place more weight on the quality of bids but will also allow for price to be taken into account when evaluating the total scores and will ensure value for money principles can be demonstrated as part of the assessment. As part of the quality evaluations the evaluation team will be requiring bidders to give an in depth written response to the method statement questions and also virtually attend an interview where the panel will further ensure the bidder meets the high level of quality required for this area of work.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 10 Consideration was taken to contracting directly with a research partner but it was determined that there is a market for this work and so best value will be achieved through competition.

How will success be measured?

- 11 The RAA Leader's Group is responsible for ensuring projects and activities deliver the intended outcomes of the grant and that performance is robustly monitored against the priorities of the National Adoption Strategy. Day to day contract management will be led by the Adoption England Commissioning Team.

- 12 The specification for the tender will set out specific targets and performance measures that link to the overall outcomes of the grant funding from DfE.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 13 The aim is to publish the tender in April 2024 and for the contract to be awarded by June 2024. Following a mobilisation period, the contract will commence 8th July 2024.

Appendices

- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Inclusion (EDCI) screening form.

Background papers

- None