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**United Kingdom-Belfast: Adult and other education services  
2021/S 127-338425**

**Voluntary ex ante transparency notice**

**Services**

**Legal Basis:**

Directive 2014/24/EU

**Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

**I.1) Name and addresses**

Official name: CPD - Supplies and Services Division

Postal address: 303 Airport Road West

Town: Belfast

NUTS code: UK United Kingdom

Postal code: BT3 9ED

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: [ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ssdadmin.cpd@finance-ni.gov.uk)

**Internet address(es):**

Main address: <https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

Address of the buyer profile: <https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps>

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Education

**Section II: Object**

**II.1) Scope of the procurement**

**II.1.1) Title:**

DfE Disability Support for Participants on Training for Success (TfS) and ApprenticeshipsNI (AppsNI)

Reference number: 694984

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

80400000 Adult and other education services

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description:**

Following a competition advertised in the Official Journal of the EU in 21 December 2016 the Department for Economy entered into a contract with 5 suppliers primarily for disability support services to the departments training for success and ApprenticeshipsNI programmes. This contract was procured in line with the provisions of Schedule 3, 'light touch regime', within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The contract, valued at GBP 4 500 000, was originally let as a 2-year contract on 31 July 2017. While there was two one year extensions available to cover provision it was originally not envisaged that they would be used. However, this was not the case and both extensions were used modifying the contract value to GBP 6 750 000. The current contract is due to expire 31 July 2021 however, due to the Public Health restrictions that have been in place in 2020

and extended throughout the early part of 2021, as a result of the Covid Pandemic, the Department have been unable to complete the work required under this contract. It has therefore become necessary to further Modify this contract until 31 December 2021 at a cost of GBP 2 050 000 under regulation 72(1)(c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended).

**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: 6 750 000.00 GBP

**II.2) Description**

**II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS code: UKN0 Northern Ireland

**II.2.4) Description of the procurement:**

The Department for the Economy is committed to the development of a highly skilled, flexible and innovative workforce which will contribute to the twin goals of social inclusion and economic success for Northern Ireland. The quality and effectiveness of training for both young people and adults are crucial elements of that process. The purpose of this contract is to provide Disability Support Services to the Departments Training for Success and ApprenticeshipsNI programmes.

**II.2.5) Award criteria**

**II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: yes

Description of options:

This contract commenced on award (1 August 2017) and is running until 31 July 2021. The client availed of both the options to extend this contract for two further periods of 1 year each with the contract due to expire 31 July 2021.

**II.2.13) Information about European Union funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: no

**II.2.14) Additional information**

This voluntary transparency notice has been published to alert economic operators of the Department for Economy intention to further modify the Disability Support for Participants on Training for Success (TfS) and ApprenticeshipsNI (AppsNI) contract under Regulation 72(1)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations (as amended). The modification will take the form of an extension from 31 July 2021 until 31 December 2021 at a cost of GBP 2 050 000. A modification notice will be published after the modification has been formalised.

**Section IV: Procedure**

**IV.1) Description**

**IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the Official Journal of the European Union in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the directive

Explanation:

This voluntary transparency notice has been published to alert economic operators of the Department for Economy intention to further modify the disability support for participants on Training for Success (TfS) and ApprenticeshipsNI (AppsNI) contract under Regulation 72(1)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations (as

amended). The modification will take the form of an extension from 31 July 2021 until 31 December 2021 at a cost of GBP 2 050 000. A modification notice will be published after the modification has been formalised.

Following a competition advertised in the Official Journal of the EU in 21 December 2016 the Department for Economy entered into a contract with 5 suppliers

- The Cedar Foundation;
- Clanrye;
- Disability Action;
- Sensory Learning Support;
- Ulster Supported Employment Ltd.

Primarily for Disability Support Services to the Departments Training for Success and ApprenticeshipsNI programmes. This contract was procured in line with the provisions of Schedule 3, 'light touch regime', within the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The contract, valued at GBP 4 500 000, was originally let as a 2-year contract on 31 July 2017. While there was two one year extensions available to cover provision it was originally not envisaged they would be used. However, this was not the case and both extensions were used resulting in the contract being modified to the value of GBP 6 750 000. The current contract is due to expire 31 July 2021 however, due to the Public Health restrictions that have been in place in 2020 and extended throughout the early part of 2021, as a result of the Covid Pandemic, the Department have been unable to complete the work required under this contract. It has therefore become necessary to further Modify this contract until 31 December 2021 at a cost of GBP 2 050 000 under regulation 72(1)(c) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended). The need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the authority could not have foreseen; the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract; and any increase in price does not exceed 50 % of the value of the original contract.

**IV.1.3) Information about framework agreement**

**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 in the OJ S: [2016/S 246-450002](#)

**Section V: Award of contract/concession**

**Contract No:** 694984

**Title:**

DfE Disability Support for Participants on Training for Success (TfS) and ApprenticeshipsNI (AppsNI)

**V.2) Award of contract/concession**

**V.2.1) Date of contract award decision:**

31/07/2017

**V.2.2) Information about tenders**

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

**V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: The Cedar Foundation

Town: Belfast

NUTS code: UKM Scotland

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: [a.woods@cedar-foundation.org](mailto:a.woods@cedar-foundation.org)

Internet address: <https://www.cedar-foundation.org>

The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: yes

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: Clanrye

Town: Belfast

NUTS code: UKN0 Northern Ireland

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: [liam.devine@clanryegroup.com](mailto:liam.devine@clanryegroup.com)

Internet address: <https://www.clanryegroup.com/>

The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: yes

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: Disability Action

Town: Belfast

NUTS code: UKN Northern Ireland

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: [lauramccartney@disabilityaction.org](mailto:lauramccartney@disabilityaction.org)

Internet address: <https://www.disabilityaction.org/>

The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: yes

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: Sensory Learning Support

Town: Belfast

NUTS code: UKN Northern Ireland

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: [mail@slsservice.org.uk](mailto:mail@slsservice.org.uk)

Internet address: <http://www.slsservice.org.uk/>

The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: yes

V.2.3) **Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

Official name: Ulster Supported Employment Ltd

Town: Belfast

NUTS code: UKN Northern Ireland

Country: United Kingdom

E-mail: [asavage@usel.co.uk](mailto:asavage@usel.co.uk)

Internet address: <https://www.usel.co.uk/>

The contractor/concessionaire will be an SME: yes

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot/concession: 6 050 000.00 GBP

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: 6 050 000.00 GBP

V.2.5) **Information about subcontracting**

**Section VI: Complementary information**

VI.3) **Additional information:**

The value of the modification for the maximum 5 months at a cost of GBP 2 050 000. The original value of the contract awarded in 2017 was GBP 6 750 000.

VI.4) **Procedures for review**

VI.4.1) **Review body**

Official name: UK Contracting Authorities do not have a review procedure in place. Economic Operators have access to the NI Courts and Tribunal Service if they wish to issue a claim against a contract modification or contract award under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as amended.

Town: Belfast

Country: United Kingdom

VI.4.3) **Review procedure**

Precise information on deadline(s) for review procedures:

The UK does not have any special review body with responsibility for appeal/mediation procedures in public procurement competitions. Instead; any challenges are dealt with by the High Court, .Commercial Division, to which proceedings may be issued regarding alleged breaches of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended).

VI.5) **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

30/06/2021