

Northamptonshire County Council - Transport Framework - Supplier Days
Question and Answers

Question	1	When is the new framework being implemented?
Answer		<i>The new Framework will be implemented in June 2016</i>
Question	2	Which system is the bidding process being run on?
Answer		<i>The bidding process will be ran on Due North www.lgssprocurementportal.co.uk</i>
Question	3	How will the operators be notified that the framework is open?
Answer		<i>Operators are advised to register with Contracts Finder https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder and Due North to receive the notification</i>
Question	4	Can you continue the existing framework contracts?
Answer		<i>Contracts awarded under the existing framework will still run until they reach their end dates or terminated by the Authority.</i>
Question	5	What happens if the country votes to leave the European Union?
Answer		<i>As we are currently still in the EU this process will be ran under the EU Regulations. If, after the referendum, we are no longer within the EU we will then follow the regulations that are laid down by the UK Government. The current non EU Procurement process for Tenders is not too dissimilar to those that are ran under the EU Regulations.</i>
Question	6	Can we send a copy of the slides / presentations out to operators?
Answer		<i>Copies of slides will be attached the Contracts Finder advert</i>
Question	7	Can operators raise their quality scores?
Answer		<i>Quality scores that are generated by the bidders to join the Framework will stay for the term of the framework these cannot be increased or decreased.</i>
Question	8	Will the previous quality scores be transferred over
Answer		<i>No. This is a new process.</i>
Question		Will NEW operators have a higher/lower quality score?
Answer		<i>All operators applying to the Framework will be asked the same questions and given the same opportunity.</i>
Question	9	Will we be circulating a user guide?
Answer		<i>A user guide will be uploaded to the Contract Finder advert</i>
Question	10	If an operator is currently on the ad-hoc framework does he have to re-register?
Answer		<i>This Framework is a separate Framework to the Northamptonshire County Council Ad-hoc Framework and all operators who wish to be able to bid for contract work must apply to be on this new Contract Framework.</i>
Question	11	How long will the registration process be open for?
Answer		<i>The current agreement is for the opportunity be live for 30 days</i>
Question	12	Where will it be advertised?
Answer		<i>This will be advertised on Contracts Finder. https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder</i>

Question	13	What will determine the extension of the framework after the 2 years initial framework period?
Answer		<i>If the framework is working well and there are no major changes to our requirements, it will be extended by one year. This can happen twice (i.e. a fourth year). The only reason not to extend is either there is a major change to circumstances, e.g. a major governmental change to the procurement law (very unlikely) or if we decide to go out for a new framework in order to increase the number of operators.</i>
Question	14	Do I need to register again if already registered on Due North?
Answer		<i>If your organisation has a supplier account already registered on Due North, you are not required to re-register. Your account details will be automatically transferred, but this is just registration to be on Due North. It does not mean your framework registration which will not be transferred. You will need to use your registration on Due North to log in, find the Invitation to Tender and answer the question submit your answers to be considered for the new framework.</i>
Question	15	How do we know when the framework is live?
Answer		<i>If you are registered on Due North you will receive an email from ProContract-Notifications@due-north.com. Please check you SPAM and JUNK in boxes.</i>
Question	16	Why do operators have to re-register? Can't details be transferred?
Answer		<i>This is not a re- registration this is an application to join a new framework. Potentially questions, answer and requirements may change.</i>
Question	17	Are there any companies on the new Framework at the moment?
Answer		<i>No. This Framework is not live yet and no one has had the opportunity to apply.</i>
Question	18	How long will the Framework agreement be for?
Answer		<i>The new framework will be initially for 2 years with options to extend for a further 2 periods of 12 months. 2 +1+1</i>
Question	19	How is the quality score calculated?
Answer		<i>Your quality score will be based on the Answers that you provide during the application to the Framework. Each Quality question will outline what score can be achieved by what answer.</i>
Question	20	Why do you require so much financial information from Operators?
Answer		<i>On this project the financial element of the questionnaire has been reduced. We ask for financial information to check if there is any potential financial risk.</i>
Question	21	What are your data protection arrangements? How do you stop business sensitive information being shared between different operators?
Answer		<i>Please see the Northamptonshire County council website for more information on Data Protection. www.northamptonshire.gov.uk. We are very careful about Data Protection and do not share private or confidential information about operators with other operators or anyone else. When a competition is won, we do identify the winning bidder and their price, as this is publicly available information.</i>
Question	22	How can operators raise their quality score?
Answer		<i>Once your quality is generated by the answers you provide during the application process. Once the deadline for responses has passed and framework is live it cannot be change. This is fixed for the term of the Framework (this includes all extensions).</i>

Question	23	What information is contained In the system generated emails? Can they include specific details regarding the contract?
Answer		<p>This is an example of a system generated email when a message sent to you.</p> <p>You will need to follow the link as advised and access the message to see the full details</p> <p><i>A new message has been published about the following contract: Northamptonshire County Council Services (CONTRACT-9ZPH-FN68L6)</i></p> <p><i>To access this message please use the link below and navigate to the messages section of Data Room.</i></p> <p><i>https://www.lgssprocurementportal.co.uk/procontract/NBC/NBC_contract.nsf/frm_contract_synopsis?openForm&contract_id=CONTRACT-9ZZH-FN68L6&from=&login&useSession=true</i></p> <p><i>This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The company accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.</i></p> <p><i>Email Originated From: LGSS County Council: LGSS Contract Ref ID: CONTRACT-9ZPH-FN68L6 E-Mail/Process Ref: RFX-A4NL-4YVTHN-2</i></p>
Question	24	If you're on Due North do you also have to use Contract Finder to search for contracts
Answer		<i>No but it is advisable to register with Contracts Finder as we use this for other activities like advertising supplier days and this offers access to all Contracts.</i>
Question	25	When will Operators get the Framework notification
Answer		<i>When the opportunity is made live on Due North you will receive a notification email similar to that in answer 23.</i>
Question	26	When will the Framework application be open and how long for?
Answer		<i>The plan is to make the opportunity live early to mid March and this will be open for a maximum of 30 days. Please notes these dates are subject to change</i>
Question	27	Can you cut and paste information into the application
Answer		<i>Yes.</i>