**5237R – Consultancy Services – Town Centres Boroughwide**

**Details**

Covid 19 has caused the worst economic shock for generations. High streets which were under considerable stress prior to the pandemic as shopping habits changed have been particular badly affected by this unprecedented situation.

The Government, as part of a suite of measures to counteract the impact the current Pandemic is having on the economy, have announced several funded programmes. One of these measures is the Reopening the High street Safely programme. This has received up to £50m of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding. Each local authority has a pre-agreed allocation for projects which are to be agreed with the MHCLG. Bexley was allocated £220,000 in total. The proposed programme has 4 main themes

1. Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies.
2. Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely
3. Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.
4. Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.

The programme put together by London Borough of Bexley, which may be amended and is subject to final sign off by MHCLG as the Managing Authority, will be explained later in the document. The Consultant must deliver the services set out in this Brief as directed by the London Borough of Bexley in a manner compliant with the guidance set out by MHLCG for the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund and Consultants are expected to familiarise themselves with the overall scheme guidance and rules which are available from the following website:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reopening-high-streets-safely-fund-guidance

The work needs to start immediately to ensure the impact of this fund is timely and helpful to the business community.

**Duration**

Delivery of final project monitoring reports is programmed for End-March 2021.

## Estimated value

The estimated value of the contract is up to £113,000.

## How to express an interest

If you wish to apply for this project please follow the steps below:

Register your company free of charge on the London Tenders Portal (LTP)

Await acceptance. You will receive an email confirming your username and password for the LTP.

Use your username and password to log into the LTP and express your interest in the relevant contract number and category.

Shortly after you have expressed interest, you will receive a second email containing a link to access the tender documents.

## Additional information

If you wish to apply for e-mail alerts of future opportunities, please register your company free of charge on LTP

Tick all categories you are interested in being notified about - you will only receive e-mail alerts for those categories which you select.

## TIMETABLE

* The closing date for expressions of interest is: 22 October 2020 5pm
* Submission of documents by (Late applications will not be accepted): 23 October 2020
* Anticipated award date is: October/November 2020
* The date of commencement of contract is:6 November 2020

The Council accepts no liability whatsoever for expressions of interest that are not received due to internet connectivity issues, transmission delays or errors.

If you wish to discuss any of the above please contact: procurement@bexley.gov.uk