**Reference - 5655 - THE PROVISION OF SELECTION TESTS FOR ENTRY TO GRAMMAR SCHOOLS - Boroughwide**

**Summary of Requirement –**

The London Borough of Bexley has four grammar schools within its boundaries and for a number of years has provided and managed the selection process for entry to the schools at Year 7. Children sit one set of tests and those deemed selective are eligible for consideration for any of Bexley’s four grammar schools. The schools apply their own oversubscription criteria to prioritise applicants.

All the grammar schools have now converted to Academy status and are responsible for their own admission processes. The Heads wish to retain the benefits of a co-ordinated selection process for entry to the schools in Year 7 and as the current contract has come to an end have asked the Local Authority to commission a new selection test contract on their behalf.

Children currently sit two tests of up to one hour each that test a range of skills, knowledge and competencies in Maths, English, Verbal and Non-Verbal Reasoning, and there are multiple choice answer options on a separate answer sheet. The answer sheets are marked by the current provider using an Optical Mark Reader.

The grammar school Heads believe that this testing must select the children most suited to a grammar school education. Both the grammar school Heads and the London Borough of Bexley believe that the selection test should be as far as possible ‘non coachable’ and based on ability Children should be able to attempt all questions using what they have learned in school. Paid practice materials for this test will not be produced or marketed however, all children who register for the test will be provided with relevant familiarisation materials once they have registered to sit the test.

We are inviting companies to provide selection tests for entry to grammar schools at ages 11 with associated marking services, standardisation of raw scores, advice on selective thresholds and familiarisation materials

**Contract period**

The contract will run from 1st February 2023 until 31st October 2026 with the option to extend up to a further period or periods of up to 24 months

## Contract value

The estimated value of the contract is £100,000 per annum.

## Miscellaneous information

Tenders are being invited using the Open procedure and a contract notice has been published in the Find a Tender.

Potential providers must be aware that the transfer of undertakings (protection of employment) regulations (TUPE) will NOT apply.

**Health and Safety at Work**

*In meeting the duties placed by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, and subordinate legislation, the London Borough of Bexley (LBB) has selected the prequalification schemes that form the Safety Schemes in Procurement Forum (SSIP) as the minimum standards of Health and Safety competence required.*

*Compliance with any one of these standards, details of which are available on the SSIP website, demonstrates an understanding of health and safety law and its application in the working environment. As far as LBB is concerned the most common standards used are the Contractors*

*Health And Safety Assessment scheme (CHAS), EXOR Health and Safety and OHSAS 18001 (http://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/ohsas-18001-occupational-health-and-safety/)*

*If applicable - Only companies suitably registered (with regards to Health and Safety) by an SSIP Forum member as ‘Compliant’ (this compliance must also be ‘valid’ i.e. assessed within the last 2 years) shall be invited to tender, therefore any application your company may need to make to any of these bodies must be completed successfully by the date any tender is issued. The LBB will carry out a final check on registration just prior to tender invitation and companies not suitably registered at that time will not be invited to tender.*

*Contractors are expected to maintain a compliant registration (with regards to Health and Safety) with an SSIP Forum member for the duration of any contract.*

*The SSIP Forum acts as an umbrella organisation to facilitate mutual recognition between health and safety pre-qualification schemes wherever it is practicable to do so.*

## How to express an interest

If you wish to apply for this contract, 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 :8th December 2022
* Anticipated date for return of tender documents: 9th December 2022
* Anticipated award date is 19th December 2022
* The date of commencement of contract is1st February 2023

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