

**EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES SERVICE PROVIDERS  
INVITATION TO TENDER  
WEST MIDLANDS KICK START PARTNERSHIP  
FINANCIAL ADVICE SERVICE**

The West Midlands Kick Start Partnership is a partnership of Local Authorities who have operated loan based home improvement programmes since 2004. The driving force behind the Partnership is delivery of the Government's vision of Delivering Decent Homes by helping vulnerable homeowners address housing disrepair, improvement initiatives, relocation and other matters affecting the fabric or amenities of the home by offering financial advice and funding options in the form of affordable loans as an alternative to the traditional approach of public grants.

Birmingham City Council invites organisations with appropriate qualifications in financial services to tender for the provision of a Financial Advice service for the Partnership.

This service is will

- provide a comprehensive financial advisory service on behalf of the West Midlands Kick Start Partnership's Home Improvement Agencies and the Council
- provide regulated, whole of market financial advice to homeowners to help identify funding options and formulate funding recommendations to support improvements, repairs, relocation and other requirements affecting the fabric or amenities of the home that meet Decent Homes Standards as required by the Partnership

This service will have a high level of interaction with Homeowners, the Partnership's Fund Manager service and Home Improvement Agencies.

The contract is due to commence in July 2010 and run for a period of 3 years with an option to extend beyond this period subject to satisfactory performance and HM Treasury funding

The annual amount of loans advanced for home based improvement schemes by the Partnership will not exceed £20Million in any one year. The Financial Advice Service provider must be able to provide a scaleable service to provide financial advice and funding option recommendations to facilitate £20Million in each year of the contract. Experience to date suggests that to achieve this level of lending within the Partnership's operating demographics will require approximately 3000 financial advice & funding recommendations to be made to referred homeowners per annum.

If you are interested in tendering please email [procurement\\_info@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:procurement_info@birmingham.gov.uk) Quoting contract reference P94 and indicating whether you wish to receive a hard copy or electronic copy of the ITT.

Deadline for requesting documents is noon on Monday 1st March 2010.

Your tender should be returned by noon on Monday 8th March 2010.

For more information email Debbie Husler, Head Of Procurement - People, at [Debbie.husler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.husler@birmingham.gov.uk) by 1st March 2010.