



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Pre-Tender Market Engagement**

**Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Evaluation  
CPD4124003**

**Authority:** Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)  
("the Authority").

**Date Response required: 3:00pm (BST) on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This Pre-Tender Market Engagement (PTME) seeks information in preparation for the potential procurement of a Supplier (from herein referred to as a "**Potential Supplier**") to deliver two evaluation Lots for the Homelessness and Rough sleeping Evaluation Programme. The purpose of this PTME is to:
  - 1.1.1 help refine the requirement if necessary;
  - 1.1.2 help provide a better understanding of the feasibility of the requirement and the costs of the requirement;
  - 1.1.3 understand the capacity of the market to deliver and possible risks involved;
  - 1.1.4 provide the market with an opportunity to ask questions, raise queries and any issues to be addressed at an early stage; and
  - 1.1.5 facilitate collaborations between Potential Suppliers.
- 1.2 The Authority shall maintain commercial confidentiality of information received during the PTME.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping (HRS) Programme provides funding for programmes designed to end rough sleeping and reduce homelessness. It includes a wide range of interventions which tackle the following three pillars of delivery:
  - 2.1.1 **Prevention** - Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping from happening in the first place, ensuring episodes are rare.
  - 2.1.2 **Intervention** - When homelessness and rough sleeping does occur, people are quickly connected to housing, ensuring episodes are brief.
  - 2.1.3 **Recovery** - Suitable accommodation and wrap around support is provided to help people recover from their homelessness or rough sleeping episode to ensure it is non-recurrent.
- 2.2 A robust large-scale evaluation of the HRS programme is essential to further our understanding of how these interventions operate in the wider HRS and public health system, and to understand what works reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 2.3 **The HRS evaluation programme is composed of two elements, a Systems Wide Evaluation, and a Test and Learn Programme.** These two elements have different aims and requirements, and they may be contracted out to different organisations, however, findings from each element must inform the other.

### 3 HIGH LEVEL OUTLINE PROJECT OUTCOMES REQUIRED

- 3.1 This project will be commissioned in two separate Lots, each with their own objectives.
- 3.2 **Lot 1 aims to deliver a Systems Wide Evaluation of HRS.** This systems-informed evaluation will help DLUHC understand how the HRS system interacts at a local level as well as how it operates within the wider public sector, the relative contribution of different elements of the system, and their value for money. The system includes actors, at national and local government level, who play a strategic role in funding, commissioning and delivering services for people who experience homelessness and rough sleeping, or which people who experience homelessness and rough sleeping interact with.
- 3.3 The main aims of the systems wide evaluation are currently:
  - 3.3.1 To provide contextual information to better understand delivery at the system and at the local level; providing a broader understanding of how the system works and should work as a whole.
  - 3.3.2 To provide a better understanding of how people enter and move through the homelessness and rough sleeping system and interact with different services or support.
  - 3.3.3 To measure delivery and interventions using a common set of metrics, in order to understand the effectiveness of the HRS system and service delivery, what delivers the best outcomes and value for money, and how resources should be directed.
    - 3.3.3.1 If feasible and affordable, the evaluation will also include the programme evaluations of the following programmes: Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI), and the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).
- 3.4 Understanding the impact of specific interventions and how they relate to each other and their relative value for money is vital for this Systems Wide Evaluation. In particular, the assessment will need to reflect an interest in the following programmes: the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI), and the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), and explore to what extent the impacts and contribution of these can be isolated and evaluated separately.
- 3.5 An ITT feasibility study which will inform the design of the evaluation has recently been launched.
- 3.6 **Lot 2 aims to set up and deliver a Test & Learn Programme**, to improve the quality of the evidence base in HRS. This will help support evidence-based practice, the delivery of outcomes and understanding of value for money. The aims of the Test and Learn Programme are:
  - 3.6.1 To develop a more robust evidence base of 'what works' within the HRS system
  - 3.6.2 To test both promising existing and innovative interventions
  - 3.6.3 To build capacity in the sector for evidence based decision-making and support a learning culture.
- 3.7 This Lot will deliver a series of robust trials identifying 'what works', for who and in what context. It is anticipated (pending output of feasibility study) that these will be RCTs or quasi-experimental designs evaluating specific interventions for specific populations.

They will cover both current practice and innovative approaches. The authority is particularly interested in addressing evidence gaps in relation to the sector.

- 3.8 Additionally, a supporting strand will facilitate knowledge sharing and support capability building for local leaders and practitioners, with the aim of advancing the understanding and use of evidence to improve services.
- 3.9 An ITT feasibility study which will inform the design of the Programme has recently been launched.
- 3.10 Of the social value policy themes set out in the Quick Reference Table ([Social value quick reference guide](#)), the Authority considers the following policy areas as the most relevant to this contract and the Supplier will be required to deliver social benefits related to them under the Contract:
  - Theme 1: COVID-19 Recovery, Policy area 1.2: Supporting people and community recovery;
  - Theme 2: Tackling economic inequality, Policy area 2.2: Employment.

## 4 OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

- 4.1 Lot 1: Systems-informed evaluation of HRS interventions, based on existing evaluations and data, primary data collection (surveys, case studies, interviews, etc), data linking where feasible; interim findings and reports; final report, also drawing on Lot 2 findings; 'deep dives' reports into the three key interventions, including intervention-focused evaluation (HPG, RSAP, and RSI) and most relevant evidence from Lot 2. Final delivery by March 2025.
- 4.2 Lot 2: Delivery of 8-12 trials of interventions to address homelessness and rough sleeping; evaluation of trials using robust methodology including counterfactuals; interim findings and reports; cross-cutting and thematic reporting; final reports; dissemination activities; datasets; Final delivery by March 2025.

## 5 KEY DATES & TENDERING PROCESS

PTME Response deadline	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2022 (3:00pm)
Deadline to register Interest for PTME online event	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2022 (12:00 noon)
PTME online event	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022 (3:00pm)
Issue of ITT	May 2023 (TBC)

- 5.1 If it is decided this service is required, it is anticipated that a procurement may start in May 2023 with the contract to commence summer 2023. These indicative dates are for information purposes only. DLUHC reserve the right to amend these dates at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely on them entirely at their own risk.
- 5.2 The contract is expected to be for a period of two years.
- 5.3 DLUHC is planning an accompanying, pre-market engagement event which will be held online from 3:00pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. This will allow suppliers to provide feedback on the requirements and raise clarification questions directly to the project team. Suppliers must express an interest in attending this event no later than 12:00 hours on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022. This will allow DLUHC to send invitations and

provide supplementary information relating to some of the Annexes referenced in the attached specification. Suppliers who are not able to attend the online event may also submit a request for the supplementary information to help them submit a formal written response to this pre-market engagement by the deadline of 3:00pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

- 5.4 The project, if progressed, is likely to be procured through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) - RM6126 Research and Insights.
- 5.5 Suppliers are able to apply to join the DPS at any time. During application to join the DPS, suppliers indicate which services they may be able to provide under the DPS.
- 5.6 Please note that new suppliers are able to register with the DPS via the following link and that this process can take at least two weeks (Once you click on the link below, please scroll down to see 'Research and Insights'):  
<https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps#research>
- 5.7 If you have any questions about the DPS and would like to contact a member of the CCS team please use the links provided on the website above.

## 6 RESPONSE

**6.1 Please respond by email to [commercial@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:commercial@levellingup.gov.uk) with the following by 3:00pm BST) on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (the "Response Deadline").**

- Q1 Is there sufficient capacity and expertise in the sector to deliver on these proposals?
- Q2 Would you be interested in bidding for this project?
- Q3 How much time would you need these tenders to be out in the market to make a successful bid? How long would you need to form any consortia?
- Q4 Is this project deliverable in the timeframe proposed?
- Q5 Is what the Authority asking for clear?
- Q6 What, if anything, has the Authority missed or overlooked in setting out their requirement?
- Q7 Is there anything here which is irrelevant, outdated or unnecessary?
- Q8 What would the indicative cost be for this piece of work (Lot 1 and 2 separately)?  
For Lot 1, what would be the indicative costs for the systems wide evaluation, and for the additional programmes evaluations for the RSAP, RSI, and HPG? For Lot 2 what would be the indicative costs to deliver 8 to 10 trials? How would this vary for more or fewer trials?
- Q9 Are the proposed Social Value Themes appropriate for this requirement? Please elaborate on your reasons why and/or suggest alternatives that could be applied and why these alternatives would be more relevant? Further information on The Social Value Model, sub-criteria, illustrative examples and relevant reporting metrics can be found here to help inform your response to this question:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/940826/Social-Value-Model-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940826/Social-Value-Model-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf)

Q10 Are the proposed outcomes and outputs appropriate for this requirement? Please elaborate on your reasons why and/or suggest alternatives that could be applied and why these alternatives would be more relevant?

Q11 In your opinion, what is the level of risk of modern slavery in your supply chain? Can modern slavery risks be managed / mitigated within the service?

## 7 QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 7.1 Potential Suppliers may raise questions or seek clarification regarding any aspect of this PTME document at any time prior to the Response Deadline. Questions must be submitted by email to [commercial@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:commercial@levellingup.gov.uk) only. DLUHC will respond to questions formally during the online event on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. Questions may also be raised during the online event.
- 7.2 To ensure that all Potential Suppliers have equal access to information regarding this PTME exercise, responses to questions raised by Potential Suppliers will be published in a "Questions and Answers" document, which will also be circulated by email, with updates appearing at regular intervals (approximately two to three working days).
- 7.3 Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
- 7.4 If a Potential Supplier wishes to ask a question or seek clarification without the question and answer being revealed, then the Potential Supplier must state this in their email and provide its justification for withholding the question and any response. If the Authority does not consider that there is sufficient justification for withholding the question and the corresponding response, the Potential Supplier will be invited to decide whether:
  - 7.4.1 the question/clarification and the response should in fact be published; or
  - 7.4.2 it wishes to withdraw the question/clarification.

## 8 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 8.1 This PTME will help the Authority to refine the requirements and to understand the potential level of interest in the delivering requirements. It will also aid Potential Supplier's understanding of the requirements in advance of any formal competitive tender exercise.
- 8.2 The Authority reserves the right to change any information contained within this PTME at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely upon it entirely at their own risk.
- 8.3 The Authority reserves the right not to proceed with a competitive tender exercise after this PTME or to award any contract.
- 8.4 Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response to this PTME must be borne by the Potential Supplier.
- 8.5 No down-selection of Potential Suppliers will take place as a consequence of any responses or interactions relating to this PTME.
- 8.6 The Authority expects that all responses to this PTME will be provided by Potential Suppliers in good faith to the best of their ability in the light of information available at the time of their response.

- 8.7 No information provided by a Potential Supplier in response to this PTME will be carried forward, used or acknowledged in any way for the purpose of evaluating the Potential Supplier, in any subsequent formal procurement process.