

Request for Quotation
Supply Chain Management Services for Major Works
Questions & Answers

Ref	Questions	Answers
1	You refer to 'The DPS Development Company' are you referring to Axians?	Yes, Axians are our development partner for the DPS
2	Appendix D – The Contract for Supply Chain Assurance – We would obviously need to review your contract and may have some questions that would need to be discussed with our legal department, will the contract be negotiable?	Appendix D represents the Council's preferred terms. If there are any concerns or terms that prospective Providers are unable to accept, we will consider representations on a case-by-case basis. The Council reserves the right not to accept a change/changes requested as part of the RFQ process.
3	May we ask what procurement procedure you are using for the project?	This RFQ has been issued using the Open Procedure
4	Q3. Quality Standards appropriate to SSIP? Do you mean PAS91? SSIP is purely relating to H&S?	This refers to the quality standards we expect prospective bidders to apply to the assessment work they conduct when delivering assessment services. Not the assessment of the contractors. As an SSIP member, we understand that there is a quality framework for the vetting and verification work you conduct. An example standard would be ISO9001 or equivalent. NB: Please identify the quality standard/process you adhere to, in your proposal
5	Q4. Experience – be an established SSIP member for a minimum of 2 years? I am not sure how this would be relevant and would be difficult to trace, a company could meet the requirements of SSIP and obtain their certification within a month, by asking all members to have held SSIP for 2 years you might not meet your objective of encouraging local and small businesses within the underrepresented groups and could penalise the smaller contractors? Could you please confirm if this is a requirement for all members of the DPS to hold a current SSIP certificate? We tend to find the smaller SME members don't and hold a current H&S policy?	Question 4 relates to the experience of Prospective Providers for Supply Chain Assurance Companies. Not the contractors that may seek to be registered on the DPS. i.e., SSIP currently have 25 registered members - We wish to ensure that we are appointing a provider with experience in vetting and verification.
6	Do you know the relevant work categories that will be required by contractors joining the DPS?	Attached (Annex A) is a list of the type of projects that will be contracted through the DPS. This is for indicative purposes only and not an exhaustive list.
7	You mention Assessment against your RPP does that mean you will require all members of the DPS to meet all of the requirements of your RPP, i.e.; the London Living Wage (Living Wage outside London) will be expected in all contracts?	Our Responsible Procurement Policy (RPP) includes the London Living Wage /Living Wage requirement which applies to all contracts above £100k. The policy states that our approach to procurements below £100k will have regard to the resources available to smaller providers. (RPP paragraph 5.2 refers). Our strategy to support smaller, more local providers is a key driver for the DPS and we want to find appropriate ways of ensuring the RPP principles are adopted in all our contracts.

8	From your works spend sheet there are 434 contractors listed, do you expect all of these to join the DPS?	<p>Two of the key objectives for the DPS are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) diversify our supply chain b) increase opportunities for local SMEs (particularly from Priority Groups) to contract with the Council. <p>We aim to fulfil these objectives by creating a tiered DPS, where providers will be invited to register for work available in specific tiers - We are yet to finalise our tiering approach, which is likely to be determined by contract value and work type.</p> <p>Things to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) We don't have a target number of contractors for the DPS b) We will use the list to invite existing contractors to register c) The need for diversification will mean the major works contractor list should look very different over the next couple of years d) This is a whole Council list of identified construction related contractors, many of which do not currently provide major works support. e) The current major works supply chain has around 12 - 16 large contractors with a supply chain within it, that we don't currently have visibility of <p>The list has been provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) enable prospective Providers of this RFQ to understand which contractors are already registered in your schemes. b) understand the current contractor landscape.
9	Will you require a presentation of our proposal?	A presentation is not a requirement of the invitation to submit proposals. However, we may request a presentation if, having evaluated all bids, we are unable to determine which is the most economically advantageous. Should we decide to ask for presentations we will give appropriate notice for that.
10	From award of contract on 3 rd May how quickly will you require the DPS Solution to be up and running for testing prior to the desired Go Live date of 16 th August?	We are targeting for the DPS solution to be in place and ready for launch by the middle of August 2021.
11	I notice you state a 2-year contract 10 th May 2021 - 9 th May 2023, will you be looking to pay annually or for the 2 years upfront?	<p>Invoicing and payment should be made more regularly (at least to start with). This is to ensure appropriate performance against specific milestones (e.g. monthly or quarterly)</p> <p>NB: Please provide your preferred payment plan in your proposal</p>
12	When will you be looking to start communicating to the Market and sourcing new contractors?	We would like to start communicating with the market ASAP after appointment of the successful Provider. We will agree this with the company concerned after contract award.

13	<p>Alongside CAS there is an SSIP (Safety Systems in Procurement) scheme. Would this be the minimum level of audit for your current or prospective contractors?</p>	<p>We are keen to ensure contractors achieve an appropriate minimum standard that verifies contractor's health & safety standards and technical competence.</p> <p>We understand PAS91, may an appropriate minimum benchmark to work to, we are asking prospective bidders to outline how Lambeth's vetting and verification processes can be designed to ensure industry standards are maintained (as a minimum), whilst supporting and encouraging SMEs.</p>
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See Annex A