



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Pre-Tender Market Engagement

Updating the English Indices of Deprivation (IoD) CPD4124111

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

Date Response required: by 15:00pm (GMT) Monday 10th October 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 update the English Indices of Deprivation (IoD or the Indices) and explore development work with the internal project team regarding quality improvements, UK harmonisation, data enhancements and new outputs. The purpose of this PTME is to:
 - 1.1.1 help define the requirement;
 - 1.1.2 understand the capacity of the market to deliver and possible risks involved;
 - 1.1.3 provide the market with an opportunity to ask questions, raise queries and any issues to be addressed at an early stage and
 - 1.1.4 to ensure that any interested Potential Suppliers are registered on the correct Government procurement framework for future reference.
- 1.2 The Authority shall maintain commercial confidentiality of information received during the PTME.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Indices comprises a unique set of measures which analyse relative deprivation at a small-area level (Lower-layer Super Output Area, or LSOAs, roughly equivalent to postcodes) across England. The suite of resources comprises 10 individual indices, measuring multiple dimensions of neighbourhood deprivation including income, employment, health, education, skills and training, crime, housing and local services, and the living environment. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines each of the seven individual indices into one overall measure of multiple deprivation – this is the official measure of relative deprivation in England. Supplementary indices are also available, measuring Income Deprivation Affecting Children (IDACI) and Older People (IDAOP).
- 2.2 The Indices are a designated National Statistic and are published by statisticians at the Authority.
- 2.3 The IoD2019 is the latest release of these statistics - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>.
- 2.4 The Indices are an important tool used by national and local organisations to help measure spatial disparity across England, target resources, develop policy and assess funding bids alongside other metrics and local insights.

- 2.5 The IMD, and each separate domain, are area-based measures designed to identify places where there is a relative concentration of several different types of deprivation, rather than to identify specific individuals who are experiencing deprivation.
- 2.6 Data is aggregated and published at LSOA level. LSOAs are a standard statistical geography produced by the Office for National Statistics as part of each Census for the purpose of reporting small-area statistics as they evenly divide up the country by population. Each LSOA is designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households. At the time of the IoD2019 release, there were 32,844 LSOAs in England.
- 2.7 In 2019, the Indices brought together 39 different datasets from a wide range of sources to measure small-area deprivation. These datasets predominantly extend to administrative data collected across Government, but also include other published National Statistics, modelled estimates and Census data. The IoD2019 Technical Report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-technical-report> - and Research Report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-research-report> - set out more detail about all aspects of the Indices, including its methodology.
- 2.8 Historically, the Indices have been updated every 3 to 5 years. As the most recent release is becoming increasingly out of date, this expectation would require the Authority to consider the publication of an update in 2024/25.

3 HIGH LEVEL OUTLINE PROJECT OUTCOMES REQUIRED

- 3.1 The overarching aim of this project is to produce an update to the IoD2019, building on the resources, guidance and tools previously published.
- 3.2 The IoD2019 consisted of the construction of a range of data outputs, alongside detailed and comprehensive technical guidance and documentation. This can be viewed online here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>
- 3.3 Improvements to the suite of resources developed by the Authority, available online here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources> - will also likely form part of any potential future requirement.
- 3.4 It serves that any Potential Supplier should have experience of working with and processing small area data, specifically at an LSOA level, related statistical methods, administrative data, GDPR and appropriate dissemination methods, for example.
- 3.5 More specifically, the Potential Supplier will be required to work with the Authority's project team across a number of specific areas to produce an update. These include;
 - a) Project management of the data collation and acquisition process. It is expected that most data sources for the Indices will be available online or by request from other Government departments/agencies. Where more sensitive data is required, the Potential Supplier will be responsible for establishing strong working relationships with data providers to access the required data and comply with relevant data protection procedures. Where necessary, the Authority will assist in establishing contacts and facilitating data access. This will result in the production of the required data outputs, accompanying technical documentation and analysis.

- b) Production of outputs, once data has been acquired, in the correct formats, combining, processing and delivering to the Authority. This will result in the production of the required data outputs, accompanying technical documentation and analysis.
- c) Reviewing the existing domains, data sources and aspects of the methodology used to construct the Indices to ensure final outputs remain robust, relevant and fit for purpose. This will likely be presented as a formal report in the early stages of the project.
- d) Fully considering responses to the recent Indices Futures user consultation, and work with the Authority to explore feasible changes and adaptations in direct response to feedback received. This will likely take place in the early stages of the project and will be informally documented alongside the Authorities published response. There may also be a need for further discussion with specific stakeholder groups to better understand ideas and practicalities.
- e) Proactively exploring practical additions to the current suite of data outputs to help meet current and emerging policy priorities. Examples of which include; the impact of the pandemic, the cost-of living, broader aspects of spatial disparity and alignment to the missions as set out on the Levelling Up White Paper¹. This will likely be presented as a formal report in the early stages of the project.
- f) Exploring feasible and practical approaches to further harmonise methods and outputs across the UK/GB with support of the Authority and respected leads across the devolved administrations. This is likely to be an ongoing and collaborative processes with leads and details of decisions and final approaches will be thoroughly detailed in any final documentation.

4 SOCIAL VALUE

4.1 The Government must take account of Social Value in all of its procurement exercises. This means more explicitly considering how a proposed contract might secure relevant and proportionate wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Those benefits are currently grouped into the following themes and outcomes:

- a) **Covid-19 recovery** (helping local communities to manage and recover from the impact of covid-19, facilitating job creation or re-training).
- b) **Tackling economic inequality** (creating new businesses, jobs and skills, and increasing supply chain resilience and capacity) e.g. employment, training and work experience opportunities for local people.
- c) **Fighting climate change** (effective stewardship of the environment) e.g. local staff, local suppliers and local work reducing your carbon footprint.
- d) **Equal opportunity** (tackling workforce inequality and reducing the disability employment gap risk of Modern slavery).
- e) **Wellbeing** (improving health and wellbeing, as well as community integration) e.g. supporting local community initiatives such as charities, local amateur sports teams etc.

4.2 Of the Social Value policy themes set out in the Quick Reference Table, 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: Help local communities to manage and recover from the impact of COVID-19
- **Theme 2: Tackling economic inequality**, Policy area: Create new businesses, new jobs and new skills

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>

- **Theme 5: Wellbeing Policy**, Policy area: Improve health and wellbeing, as well as community integration

- 4.3 To help ensure that the Social Value aspects of the supplier evaluation criteria that the Authority will apply to this procurement are fair and proportionate, the Authority would like Potential Suppliers to gauge the following as part of formal response;
- a) The suggested policy themes and outcomes above are most relevant to this prospective project and could yield potential benefits;
 - b) if any wider benefits may be gained under these themes through updating the English Indices of Deprivation;
 - c) the level of modern slavery risk in their supply chain; and
 - d) whether modern slavery risks can be managed/mitigated within the service or not.
- 4.4 Please refer to the Social Value Model Quick Reference Table for details of the potential model evaluation questions, model award criteria, model response guidance and reporting metrics for each policy outcome to help in the assessment - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940828/Social-Value-Model-Quick-Reference-Table-Edn-1.1-3-Dec-20.pdf

5 OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

- 5.1 Outputs and deliverables which the Potential Supplier will be required to commit to from the outset and over the course of the project are listed in the table below. This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change. Any frequencies or timescales noted are indicative and are equally subject to change.

Deliverable Group	Output Detail(s)
Meetings (in-person and/or virtual)	These will include presence on steering groups (quarterly), governance boards (quarterly) and more specific meetings with data providing departments, stakeholders and collaborators as required
Reports (summary, internal, publishable)	Regular summary progress reports, detailing actions, risks and leads (fortnightly) More formal written reports related to specific stages of the requirement (summarised in point 3.2 above). These may be for internal use across steering groups or as part of governance processes or form part of the published suite of resources
Data	All datasets acquired from providers as part of the project are expected to be shared with the Authority Specific data files will need to be delivered in Excel format formatted as online here - https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019 - inclusive of

	<p>aggregations and summary measures to help facilitate publication</p> <p>Final data files will also be required to be of a suitable format and structure to facilitate conversion and uploaded as linked data into the Authorities Open Data Communities platform</p>
Visualisation Products	<p>Requirements around the development of tools and interactive resources are currently tbc but products will build on those published online here - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019-mapping-resources - and Potential Suppliers are requested to factor such work into response</p>
Support	<p>The Potential Supplier shall be on hand following delivery of outputs and post-publication on the Authority's website to assist with more technical user queries. The Authority will manage this via a designated mailbox and will liaise directly with the Potential Provider where their input is required</p> <p>Ad-hoc support is likely to be more heavily required immediately after publication with infrequent queries needing the Potential Providers input over time</p>

6 KEY DATES & TENDERING PROCESS

- 6.1 The contract is expected to be for a period of between 2 – 3 years.
- 6.2 If it is decided this service is required, it is anticipated that a procurement may start in late 2022 with the contract to commence in early 2023. The current procurement timelines and key milestones for the programme are outlined in the table below for information purposes.
- 6.3 These indicative timescales are for information purposes only and are subject to change. The Authority reserves the right to amend these timescales at any time, and Potential Suppliers rely on them entirely at their own risk.

Milestone	Time
PTME response deadline	Monday 10 th October 2022 by 15:00 (GMT)
Deadline to register Interest for PTME online event	Monday 10 th October 2022 by 15:00 (GMT)
Online engagement event	Friday 14 th October 2022 at 11:00am
Tender goes live	October/November 2022
Tender closes	November 2022
Contract awarded	January 2023

- 6.4 DLUHC is planning an accompanying, pre-market engagement event which will be held online from 11:00am on Friday 14th October 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 15:00 hours on Monday 10th October 2022. This will allow DLUHC to send invitations and provide supplementary information relating to some of the Annexes referenced in the attached specification.
- 6.5 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 15:00 on Monday 10th October 2022.
- 6.6 The project, if progressed, is likely to be procured through the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) - RM6126 Research and Insights.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 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' under Communications Marketplace): <https://supplierregistration.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/dps#research>
- 6.9 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.

7 RESPONSE

- 7.1 Please respond by email commercialtenders@levellingup.gov.uk with the following by 15:00pm (GMT) on Monday 10th October 2022 (the "Response Deadline").

- Q1 Would you be interested in bidding for this project?
- Q2 Is this project deliverable in the timeframe proposed?
- Q3 Is what the Authority asking for clear?
- Q4 What, if anything, has the Authority missed or overlooked in setting out their requirement?
- Q5 Is there anything here which is irrelevant, outdated or unnecessary?
- Q6 What would the indicative cost be for this piece of work?
- Q7 Would you bid for this project alone or as part of a consortium?
- Q8 Are the proposed Social Value themes and policy outcomes 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

Q9 Would you expect additional information to be provided as part of the tender pack?

8 QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

- 8.1 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 commercialtenders@levellingup.gov.uk only. Questions may also be raised during the online event.
- 8.2 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).
- 8.3 Responses to questions will not identify the originator of the question.
- 8.4 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:
 - 8.4.1 the question/clarification and the response should in fact be published; or
 - 8.4.2 it wishes to withdraw the question/clarification.

9 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 The Authority reserves the right not to proceed with a competitive tender exercise after this PTME or to award any contract.
- 9.4 Any and all costs associated with the production of such a response to this PTME must be borne by the Potential Supplier.
- 9.5 No down-selection of Potential Suppliers will take place as a consequence of any responses or interactions relating to this PTME.
- 9.6 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.
- 9.7 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.