

Cambridgeshire County Council

Soft Market Test

For

The instruction of a land agent officer to support the construction and remedial phases of Cambridgeshire Private Energy network (a private wire, substation and associated equipment connecting North Angle Solar Farm to the national grid and Swaffham Prior Community Energy Centre)



Section 1: Introduction

1. General Requirements

The purpose of this document is to briefly explain to suppliers the business and technical requirements and the expected scope of exploring options to instruct a land agent to help support the relationships between Landowners, Contractor and the Council during the construction and remedial phases of a private wire as part of the Cambridgeshire Private Energy Network.

The timescale to award this opportunity is tight as we are looking to start construction by July 2023. We are looking at meeting this requirement via recruitment, given the timescales and currently exploring all options. Hence, we are putting out a short soft market test to see how the market believes this opportunity could be pitched.

- 1.1. **Please note:** this market testing exercise is **not** an invitation to tender or a request for formal expressions of interest. This document does not form any part of an invitation to tender. The Council is issuing this request for **information only**. Any supplier invited to present to the Council is doing so to support market research only and to help make any potential procurement process more focused and efficient. No supplier selection or supplier preference is implied.
- 1.2. **Please note:** if this exercise leads to a procurement being published, and you are interested in submitting a bid, please ensure you are registered with [ProContract](#) as this is the E-tendering portal the Council uses. You can search for opportunities under the Cambridgeshire Public services within ProContract.

2. Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

- 2.1. **Please note:** all information included in this Soft Market Testing is confidential and only for the recipients' knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party without prior written authorisation.
- 2.2. All responses will be treated confidentially. However, please be aware that we are subject to the disclosure requirements of the FOI Act and that potentially any information we hold is liable to disclosure under that Act. For this reason, we strongly advise that any information you consider to be confidential is labelled as such. In the event that a request is subsequently made for disclosure under FOI the request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.



3. Background

The Council provides county-wide services to all its citizens, has numerous statutory responsibilities, including in respect of the provision of education, and supports blue light services, the health sector, charities, and other local Authorities.

The Council's strategic objectives are to provide a good quality of life for everyone living in the county, creating thriving places for people to live and give the best start for Cambridgeshire's children.

Please see website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

- The Council has declared a Climate emergency, and is working to transition to a net-zero future by 2045 - [Climate Change and Environment Strategy](#).
- The Climate Change and Energy Services team has been developing a portfolio of large-scale (>1MW) renewable energy projects that will generate long-term income streams to support the delivery of Council services. These are in different stages of development and situated across the county.
- In addition to renewable energy projects, the Council is also working on community energy projects. The most developed project has been done in partnership with the Swaffham Prior Community Land Trust. A heat network is currently under construction in the village that will take up to 300 homes off oil onto renewable energy. The heat will be supplied by ground and air source heat pumps, with the electricity to run those being supplied directly from one of the solar schemes currently under construction.
- More information and case studies on these projects can be found on our [website](#).

4. Soft Market Test Timetable

- 4.1. Please read this document and if you feel that your organisation is able to contribute to this exercise, please complete the Microsoft Forms questionnaire <https://forms.office.com/e/vQ2wFiWdZk>
- 4.2. This questionnaire will be open until 6th June **2023**.
- 4.3. If you wish to provide cases studies or attachments which support your responses, please forward these to procurementandcommercial@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
- 4.4. Following receipt of the questionnaires, the Council will review, and where necessary ask for clarification to all or some of the respondents to aid in the development of our final procurement requirements



Stage	Date
Issue of Soft Market test	22 nd May 2023
Deadline for receipt of responses to Soft Market Test.	31 st May 2023
Review & clarification period (week commencing)	1 st June 2023

4.5. Potential responders will not be prejudiced in any future procurement processes by either responding or not responding to this soft market test exercise.



Section 2: Identification of Requirement

5. Our Requirements

5.1. The Council would like to understand how the market would approach a requirement, the potential costs to delivery on the requirements. The requirement is as follows:

- 5.1.1. Experienced land agent (chartered surveyor) to act as the Council's point of contact between landowners, tenant farmers and contractors during construction of an 8km cable. To manage any issues that arise and implement quick solutions.
- 5.1.2. Manage and work with the Contractor and Landowner to return the land back to the agreed state.
- 5.1.3. Deal with any remedial issues post construction and ensure costs to rectify the construction work is kept on budget and on time e.g. land drain & drainage issues
- 5.1.4. Assess and calculate crop compensation costs and manage these payments
- 5.1.5. Manage access and compound licences
- 5.1.6. Must be onsite or attend face to face meetings as and when required, though where possible remote working will be allowed.
- 5.1.7. Work schedule will be flexible
- 5.1.8. The cost for this service must be on an outcome or fixed price basis.

CONTRACT DURATION

Contract starting 15th July 2023 and ending once the project is complete, and all signed off or no later than 31st March 2025

please complete the Microsoft Forms questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/e/vQ2wFiWdZk> by 31st May 2023.

