**HDC202215 – RFQ - Clarifications received up until 12th January 2023**

1. What organisation is conducting Phase 1 of this project?

RSK Wilding are undertaking the Phase 1 Scoping exercise.

1. What is the purpose of the on-line customer interface?

The on-line customer interface would be to provide a mechanism for the sale of credits to potential customers, allowing the council to act as a habitat / carbon bank.

1. Section 2.3.1 mentions that each project will have support from professional advisors - please clarify who the professional advisors are that will be available and what type of support is available.

The successful bidder is expected to provide or have access to sufficient expertise to support the council in the development of the pilot projects.

1. Please advise if a budget for capital expenditure will be provided for the implementation of each pilot project and what is Hart District Council's appetite for risk (this would inform the extent of speculative habitat creation)?

There is a working budget for implementation separate from the project management detailed within this tender.

1. Section 2.4 states that pilot projects are to be implemented from April-November 2023 - please clarify if all 6-8 pilot projects are expected to be implemented during this period? The NEIRF application seems to state that just one pilot project would be implemented in this period. The feasibility of delivering all projects will be dependent on available funds to cover upfront costs and for BNG the developer demand for biodiversity units.

Feasibility for 6 – 8 projects, based on the outcomes of the scoping exercise, will inform the potential timeline for implementation, and it is expected that this will be flexible and continue to be throughout the duration of the tender project. It is accepted that not all projects may be implemented by the end of the project management agreement.

1. What permissions or consents are expected to be required? This is dependent on the proposed works in the pilot projects – please can you provide some indication of these. For example, if a track is needed then planning consent would be required, while if extensive tree planting is proposed then an EIA may be required which would not be able to be obtained during this project period.

Any consents or documentation required for implementation of projects should be identified in feasibility assessments and project planning. Where additional work is required for this that may cause project implementation to be outside of the agreed project management period, these requirements should be identified clearly in project plans to ensure the council can continue the implementation and delivery of projects.

1. Has Hart District Council conducted a carbon baseline for their portfolio and operations to inform targeting net zero by 2035 and, if so, can this data be provided?

Hart has undertaken a carbon assessment and continues to monitor its carbon impact, an example of which can be found [on our website](https://www.hart.gov.uk/climate-change-0), and have a [plan to become carbon neutral](https://www.hart.gov.uk/the-council/news/our-journey-to-becoming-carbon-neutral). Further data and the full report can be shared with the successful bidder; however, the pilot projects and project management are not expected to fully offset the council’s impacts.

1. Section 2.6 states under Delivery of pilot project “Capital works to create habitat” – please clarify if the scope for the successful bidder is the appointment and oversight (i.e., project management) of contractors that would create the habitat, and that the costs of habitat creation are not included in the budget for this tender.

The costs for habitat creation are not included within the budget for this tender. There is scope that the appointment and oversight (project management) of contractors can be undertaken by the successful bidder; however, this would be in agreement with the council and undertaken within council governance. In some instances, and with agreement between the successful bidder and council, the council may request/recommend preferred contractors.

1. ITT states development of 6-8 investible pilot project with the time table for implementation the period April to November 2023 and under section 2.6 the deliverables states ‘capital works to create habitat’ - therefore is it expected that the winning bidder will actually implement habitat creation and enhancement works on the ground during the period April to November 2023 (or at least secure the contractor and manage the process) and if so does the £70K tender fee need to include the habitat creation works on the ground and the management of that process?

See Question 4.

1. We can identify potential funding partners (developers) but it may not be possible in the timeframe to actually secure a funding partner for each of the 6-8 pilot projects being developed - if no funding partner is identified or secured is the winning bidder expected to implement habitat creation works on the ground?

There is a separate project implementation fund, and where sufficient funding is not available, a project plan that the council can take forward later after the agreed project management period would be expected to be provided. The successful bidder will not be expected to fund the implement habitat creation works themselves, and handover of any ongoing project management would be expected at the end of the agreement period with the successful bidder where necessary.

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| Date opportunity posted | 13 January 2023 |
| Last date for clarifications | 12 January 2023 |
| Quotation return date | **12 noon, 25 January 2023** |