**Clarification of Bidder’s Questions:**

A Scoping Project on the Framework of Support Required by Schools to Develop their Outdoor Learning Practices.

Ref C&N 2023 102 SPOLP

Contractor Questions

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| Would you be able to provide access to relevant stakeholders to speak with e.g. NGOs? | *Natural England have good working relationships with a range of stakeholders from government departments to NGO’s including those delivering outdoor learning and time in nature in schools. We will be able to facilitate and provide access to stakeholders once the successful contractor is agreed.*  |
| To help us get a better sense of expectations, could you give us any further detail on the type of methods you'd expect to see? For example, would you anticipate primary research beyond stakeholder consultation?  | *Given the timescale of this scoping exercise we would not anticipate there needing to be primary research conducted beyond consultation with stakeholders and literature/resource reviews. Many of our stakeholders will be able to represent the education sector/teachers and provide steer on appropriate approaches. We would expect this project to consider what resources already exist, explore what works and why, and consider how the environment sector and Natural England specifically can help support schools on their journey towards outdoor learning, i.e., is it finding resources or funding, is it knowing how to judge quality of either resources, CPD, other providers, etc.* |
| Would the costed options of the framework be with the aim of a supplier then creating the framework or that Natural England would then create the framework?  | *At present this is undecided. The recommended approach and its associated costings would be used by us to seek funding to pursue the next stage of work. It would seem likely that we might need input from an external contractor, but until we have a clearer sense of what this framework would look like, our resourcing/funding etc we can’t say for sure the approach needed. Apologies that we can’t be clearer at this stage.*  |
| My query is whether you would expect the project to include talking to schools/teachers/students, or to be based only on reviewing the literature.  | *We would expect this project to need to talk to a range of stakeholders as well as reviewing literature and existing resources to determine how best to support teachers and schools to offer increased time in nature as part of the school day. We recognise that the timing of this scoping exercise is such that large scale consultation, particularly with students, is unlikely to be achievable. We would expect to discuss options for an appropriate consultation group within initiation meetings with the successful contractor and can connect them to colleagues in DfE, national and local delivery partners who work with schools and can represent the sector.* |
| On page 5 of the request for quote, it states to quote costs inclusive of VAT but on the commercial response/ budget table it says to exclude VAT. Is it possible to get confirmation? | *Quotes should clearly indicate VAT charges. Our budget mentioned in the request for quotation is inclusive of VAT we, but would expect contractors to identify vat costs in their bid.* |