# Section C: Instructions to Tenderers

### General

## These instructions are designed to ensure that all Tenderers are given equal and fair consideration. It is important therefore that you provide all the information asked for in the format and order specified. Please contact Procurement officer, Council of the Isles of Scilly, Town Hall, St Mary’s, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW or e-mail the [procurement@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@scilly.gov.uk) if you have any doubt as to what is required or will have difficulty in providing the information requested. In his absence the email address will be checked by his colleagues to ensure that a swift response to any questions raised by tenderers is delivered.

## Tenderers should read these instructions carefully before completing the Tender documentation. Failure to comply with these requirements for completion and submission of the Tender Response may result in the rejection of the Tender. Tenderers are advised therefore to acquaint themselves fully with the extent and nature of the services and contractual obligations. These instructions constitute the Conditions of Tender. Participation in the tender process automatically signals that the Tenderer accepts these Conditions of Participation.

## All documentation issued in connection with this Invitation to Tender (ITT) shall remain the property of the Authority and/or as applicable relevant Other Contracting Bodies (OCB) and shall be used only for the purpose of this procurement exercise. All Due Diligence Information shall be either returned to the Authority or securely destroyed by the Tenderer (at the Authority’s option) at the conclusion of the procurement exercise.

## The Tenderer shall ensure that each and every sub-contractor, consortium member and adviser abides by the terms of these instructions and the Conditions of Tender.

## The Tenderer shall not make contact with any other employee, agent or consultant of the Authority or any relevant OCB who are in any way connected with this procurement exercise during the period of this procurement exercise, unless instructed otherwise by the Authority.

## The Authority shall not be committed to any course of action as a result of:

## issuing this ITT or any invitation to participate in this procurement exercise,

## an invitation to submit any Response in respect of this procurement exercise,

## communicating with a Tenderer or a Tenderer’s representatives or agents in respect of this procurement exercise; or

## any other communication between the Authority and/or any relevant OCB (whether directly or by its agents or representatives) and any other party.

## Tenderers shall accept and acknowledge that by issuing this ITT the Authority shall not be bound to accept any Tender and reserves the right not to conclude an Agreement for some or all of the services for which Tenders are invited. Tenderers should be aware that no contractual relationship shall exist or be construed as existing between the Council and the successful tenderer until such time as the contract connected with this tender is duly executed and/or signed. Any works undertaken by the successful tenderer in the period between notification of award and the signing of the contract shall be considered as being at the tenderers risk.

## The Authority reserves the right to amend, add to or withdraw all, or any part of this ITT at any time during the procurement exercise.

### Confidentiality

## Subject to the exceptions referred to in paragraph C10, the contents of this ITT are being made available by the Authority on condition that:

## Tenderers shall at all times treat the contents of the ITT and any related documents (together called the ‘Information’) as confidential, save in so far as they are already in the public domain;

## Tenderers shall not disclose, copy, reproduce, distribute or pass any of the Information to any other person at any time or allow any of these things to happen;

## Tenderers shall not use any of the Information for any purpose other than for the purposes of submitting (or deciding whether to submit) a Tender; and

## Tenderers shall not undertake any publicity activity within any section of the media.

## Tenderers may disclose, distribute or pass any of the Information to the Tenderer’s advisers, sub-contractors or to another person provided that either:

## this is done for the sole purpose of enabling a Tender to be submitted and the person receiving the Information undertakes in writing to keep the Information confidential on the same terms as if that person were the Tenderer; or

## the Tenderer obtains the prior written consent of the Authority in relation to such disclosure, distribution or passing of Information; or

## the disclosure is made for the sole purpose of obtaining legal advice from external lawyers in relation to the procurement or to any Contract arising from it; or

## the Tenderer is legally required to make such a disclosure.

## In paragraphs C9 and C10 above the definition of ‘person’ includes but is not limited to any person, firm, body or association, corporate or incorporate.

## The Authority may disclose detailed information relating to Tenders to its officers, employees, agents or advisers and the Authority may make any of the Contract documents available for private inspection by its officers, employees, agents or advisers. The Authority also reserves the right to disseminate information that is materially relevant to the procurement to all Tenderers, even if the information has only been requested by one Tenderer, subject to the duty to protect each Tenderer's commercial confidentiality in relation to its Tender (unless there is a requirement for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as explained in paragraphs C13 to C16 below).

## The tenderer should be aware that the Authority is required to disclose certain information relating to this procurement process in compliance with the local Government Transparency Code 2015. This information will include, but may not be limited to, all payments to contractors for more than £500, details of any invitation to tender over £5,000 and any contract (regardless of whether this is a formal contract document or not) entered into by the authority over £5,000. This information will be declared on the Council of the Isles of Scilly website. For further information regarding the requirements of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015 tenderers are directed to:

## <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-transparency-code-2015.>

### Freedom of Information

## In accordance with the obligations and duties placed upon public authorities by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the ‘FoIA’), the Authority may, acting in accordance with the Secretary of State’s Code of Practice on the Discharge of the Functions of Public Authorities under Part 1 of the said Act, or the EIR be required to disclose information submitted by the Tenderer to the to the Authority.

## In respect of any information submitted by a Tenderer that it considers to be commercially sensitive the Tenderer should:

## Clearly identify such information as commercially sensitive;

## Explain the potential implications of disclosure of such information; and

## Provide an estimate of the period of time during which the Tenderer believes that such information will remain commercially sensitive.

## Where a Tenderer identifies information as commercially sensitive, the Authority will endeavour to maintain confidentiality. Tenderers should note, however, that, even where information is identified as commercially sensitive, the Authority may be required to disclose such information in accordance with the FoIA or the Environmental Information Regulations. In particular, the Authority is required to form an independent judgment concerning whether the information is exempt from disclosure under the FoIA or the EIR and whether the public interest favours disclosure or not. Accordingly, the Authority cannot guarantee that any information marked ‘confidential’ or “commercially sensitive” will not be disclosed.

## Where a Tenderer receives a request for information under the FoIA or the EIR during the procurement process, this should be immediately passed on to the Authority and the Tenderer should not attempt to answer the request without first consulting with the Authority.

### Tender Validity

## Your Tender should remain open for acceptance for a period of 70 days. A Tender valid for a shorter period may be rejected.

### Authority’s Contact Details

## Unless stated otherwise in these Instructions or in writing from the Authority, all communications from Tenderers (including their sub-contractors, consortium members, consultants and advisers) during the period of this procurement exercise must be directed to the designated Authority contact named in paragraph C.1 above.

## All communications should be clearly headed **Invitation to Tender Carn Gwaval Re-modelling** and include the name, contact details and position of the person making the communication.

## Requests for Tender clarifications must be submitted in accordance with the procedure set out in C51 to C57 – Queries Relating to Tender.

### Expressions of Interest and Intention to Submit a Tender

## Tenderers should complete and return as soon as possible the Expression of Interest pro-forma included within the tender pack indicating their interest in the tender process. Where a tenderer does not submit an expression of interest and the Council is unaware of the intentions of an organisation with regard to the tender process, the authority accepts no responsibility for a tenderer being unaware of any clarifications, information releases or other changes to the tender process as a consequence of a failure to provide the required contact details. In addition to direct contact between the authority and parties that have expressed an interest, the authority will periodically update its website ([www.scilly.gov.uk/business/contracts](http://www.scilly.gov.uk/business/contracts)) with any information or changes to the procurement documents but it will remain the responsibility of tenderers to ensure that they have kept up to date with changes in the process. Expressions of Interest should be sent as soon as possible to [procurement@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@scilly.gov.uk)

## In the event that a Tenderer does not wish to participate further in this procurement exercise, the Tenderer should indicate such via email to [procurement@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@scilly.gov.uk) stating the reasons why they do not wish to participate further.

### Preparation of Tender

## Tenderers must obtain for themselves at their own responsibility and expense all information necessary for the preparation of Tenders. Tenderers are solely responsible for the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of their Tender and all other stages of the selection and evaluation process. Under no circumstances will the Authority, or any of their advisers, be liable for any costs or expenses borne by Tenderers, sub-contractors, suppliers or advisers in this process.

## Tenderers are required to complete and provide all information required by the Authority in accordance with the Conditions of Tender and the Invitation to Tender. Failure to comply with the Conditions and the Invitation to Tender may lead the Authority to reject a Tender Response.

## The Authority relies on Tenderers' own analysis and review of information provided. Consequently, Tenderers are solely responsible for obtaining the information which they consider is necessary in order to make decisions regarding the content of their Tenders and to undertake any investigations they consider necessary in order to verify any information provided to them during the procurement process.

## Tenderers must form their own opinions, making such investigations and taking such advice (including professional advice) as is appropriate, regarding the services and their Tenders, without reliance upon any opinion or other information provided by the Authority or their advisers and representatives. Tenderers should notify the Authority promptly of any perceived ambiguity, inconsistency or omission in this ITT, any of its associated documents and/or any other information issued to them during the procurement process.

### Submission of Tenders

## The Authority may at its own absolute discretion extend the closing date and the time for receipt of Tenders.

## Any extension granted will apply to all Tenderers.

## Tenderers must submit:

## One electronic copy of their Tender including both the priced and unpriced version of the submission with narratives in Microsoft Word or compatible equivalent and financial details in Microsoft Excel or compatible equivalent. PDF versions are acceptable but should accompany a version submitted in a Microsoft Word compatible submission.

## The Tender and any documents accompanying it must be in the English language.

## Price and any financial data provided must be submitted in or converted into pounds sterling. Where official documents include financial data in a foreign currency, a sterling equivalent must be provided. The basis of any conversion from one currency to another must be clearly identified within the tender. This should include the exchange rate that has been used, the source of the exchange rate and the date on which the exchange rate was correct.

## The Authority does not accept responsibility for the premature opening or mishandling of Tenders that are not submitted in accordance with these instructions.

## Where applicable, account will also be taken of any factors which may impact on the Tenderers suitability that emerge from the tendering process and relate to information previously provided by the Tenderer as part of a pre-qualification process or information submitted as part of any qualitative selection process (including submitted European Single Procurement Documents documents). If the Tenderers circumstances have changed significantly from the position stated in the PQQ or ESPD this may lead to the Tenderer no longer being able to participate further in the Tender process

### Canvassing

## Any Tenderer who directly or indirectly canvasses any officer, member, employee, or agent of the Authority or its members or any relevant OCB or any of its officers or members concerning the establishment of the Agreement or who directly or indirectly obtains or attempts to obtain information from any such officer, member, employee or agent or concerning any other Tenderer, Tender or proposed Tender or otherwise attempts to distort competition or seek an undue advantage in the procurement will be disqualified.

### Disclaimers

## Whilst the information in this ITT, Due Diligence Information and supporting documents has been prepared in good faith, it does not purport to be comprehensive nor has it been independently verified.

## Neither the Authority, nor any relevant OCBs nor their advisors, nor their respective directors, officers, members, partners, employees, other staff or agents:

## makes any representation or warranty (express or implied) as to the accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of the ITT; or

## accepts any responsibility for the information contained in the ITT or for their fairness, accuracy or completeness of that information nor shall any of them be liable for any loss or damage (other than in respect of fraudulent misrepresentation) arising as a result of reliance on such information or any subsequent communication.

## Any persons considering making a decision to enter into contractual relationships with the Authority and/or, as applicable, relevant OCB following receipt of the ITT should make their own investigations and their own independent assessment of the Authority and/or, as applicable, relevant OCB and its requirements for the services and should seek their own professional financial and legal advice. For the avoidance of doubt the provision of clarification or further information in relation to the ITT or any other associated documents (including the Schedules) is only authorised to be provided following a query made in accordance with paragraph 16 of this Invitation to Tender.

## Any Agreement concluded as a result of this ITT shall be governed by English law.

### Collusive Behaviour

## Any Tenderer who:

## fixes or adjusts the amount of its Tender by or in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other party; or

## communicates to any party other than the Authority or, as applicable, relevant OCB the amount or approximate amount of its proposed Tender or information which would enable the amount or approximate amount to be calculated (except where such disclosure is made in confidence in order to obtain quotations necessary for the preparation of the Tender or insurance or any necessary security); or

## enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other party that such other party shall refrain from submitting a Tender; or

## enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other party as to the amount of any Tender submitted; or

## offers or agrees to pay or give or does pay or give any sum or sums of money, inducement or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any party for doing or having done or causing or having caused to be done in relation to any other Tender or proposed Tender, any act or omission,

## Or colludes with any party with the objective of distorting the outcome of the tender process,

## shall (without prejudice to any other civil remedies available to the Authority and without prejudice to any criminal liability which such conduct by a Tenderer may attract) be disqualified.

### No Inducement or Incentive

## The ITT is issued on the basis that nothing contained in it shall constitute an inducement or incentive nor shall have in any other way persuaded a Tenderer to submit a Tender or enter into the Agreement or any other contractual agreement.

### Acceptance and Admission to the Agreement

## The Tenderer in submitting the Tender undertakes that in the event of the Tender being accepted by the Authority and the Authority confirming in writing such acceptance to the Tenderer (notification of a successful tender), the Tenderer will within 30 days of being called upon to do so by the Authority execute the Agreement in the form set out in Invitation to Tender pack or in such amended form as may subsequently be agreed. Tenderers are reminded that no contractual relationship shall exist as a consequence of the notification and that until such time as a formal contract has been entered into by both parties i.e. the contract is formally signed and/or executed, that any operations undertaken by the tenderer are at their own risk

## The Authority shall be under no obligation to accept the lowest or any Tender.

### Queries Relating to Tender

## All requests for clarification about the requirements or the process of this procurement exercise shall be made in accordance with paragraph C.53 of these Instructions.

## The Authority will endeavour to answer all questions as quickly as possible, but cannot guarantee a minimum response time. The Authority has designated a specific window of time to deal with clarification requests from Tenderers.

## Clarification requests can be submitted via e-mail to [procurement@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@scilly.gov.uk) from 19/11/2021

## No further requests for clarifications will be accepted outside of the period referenced in the table at C18 or, where applicable, any to this date and/or time as amended and communicated to tenderers either by email or reissue of the ITT.

## In order to ensure equality of treatment of Tenderers, the Authority intends to publish the questions and clarifications raised by Tenderers together with the Authority’s responses (but not the source of the questions) to all participants on a regular basis.

## Tenderers should indicate if a query is of a commercially sensitive nature – where disclosure of such query and the answer would or would be likely to prejudice its commercial interests. However, if the Authority at its sole discretion does not either; consider the query to be of a commercially confidential nature or one which all Tenderers would potentially benefit from seeing both the query and Authority’s response, the Authority will:

## invite the Tenderer submitting the query to either declassify the query and allow the query along with the Authority’s response to be circulated to all Tenderers; or

## request the Tenderer, if it still considers the query to be of a commercially confidential nature, to withdraw the query.

## The Authority reserves the right not to respond to a request for clarification or to circulate such a request where it considers that the answer to that request would or would be likely to prejudice its commercial interests. The Authority does guarantee that the submission of a clarification question will result in an answer being provided by it within the timescales of the tender but will in every case use its best endeavours to do so.

### Amendments to Tender Documents

## At any time prior to the deadline for the receipt of Tenders, the Authority may modify the ITT by amendment. Any such amendment will be numbered and dated and issued by the Authority to all prospective Tenderers by 01/04/16. In order to give prospective Tenderers reasonable time in which to take the amendment into account in preparing their Tenders, the Authority may, at its discretion, extend the Deadline for receipt of Tenders.

### Late Tenders

## Any Tender received at the designated point after 160 GMT 6/12/2021 may be rejected unless the Tenderer can provide irrefutable evidence that the Tender was capable of being received by the due date and time.

### Proposed Amendments to the Agreement by the Tenderer

## The contract issued with this Tender Pack should be considered in detail by Tenderers as part of submitting their tender. Tenderers wishing to clarify the terms and conditions of the contract may do so by issuing a clarification request as set out in paragraph C 53.

## The Authority will consider proposed amendments strictly on their merits and within the limits imposed by Public Procurement Law and shall, in accordance with duties of transparency, fair competition and equal treatment of all tenderers, openly communicate any requested changes of the contractual documents that may have a bearing on other Tenderers approach to tendering for the contract. For the avoidance of doubt any request of this nature shall be treated as any other clarification request.

## Tenderers should communicate to the Authority, when submitting any such change, whether or not the request is of a commercially confidential nature. As per paragraph C56 the Authority will exercise sole discretion in this matter

## Only changes that have been requested and agreed within the clarifications process and timescales shall be included within the contract issued at the conclusion of the tender process. Tenderers should note that the authority will automatically reject any requests which change the nature of the contract in the favour of a particular tenderer.

### Modification and Withdrawal

## Tenderers may modify their Tender prior to the Deadline by giving notice to the Authority in writing or via electronic submission to: Procurement Officer, Council of the Isles of Scilly, Town Hall, St Mary’s, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0LW or e-mail [procurement@scilly.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@scilly.gov.uk) No Tender may be modified after the Deadline for receipt.

## The modification notice must state clearly which element of the tender requires modification, the current text or numerical information that is to be amended and the words or numerical information to be inserted in their place. The modification notice must state clearly how the Authority should implement the modification and must be submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph C35 and C36.

## Tenderers may withdraw their Tender at any time prior to the Deadline or any other time prior to accepting the offer of a contract. The notice to withdraw the Tender must be in writing and sent to the Authority by recorded delivery or equivalent service and delivered to the Authority at the address set out in paragraph C1.

### Right to Reject/Disqualify

## The Authority reserves the right to reject or disqualify a Tenderer where:

## the Tenderer fails to comply fully with the requirements of this Invitation to Tender or is guilty of a serious misrepresentation in supplying any information required in this document; or expression of interest; and/or

## the Tenderer is guilty of serious misrepresentation in relation to its Tender; expression of interest and/or the Tender process; and/or

## there is a change in identity, control, financial standing or other factor impacting on the selection and/or evaluation process affecting the Tenderer.

### Right to Cancel, Clarify or Vary the Process

## The Authority reserves the right to:

## amend the terms and conditions of the Invitation to Tender process,

## cancel the evaluation process at any stage; and/or

## require the Tenderer to clarify its Tender in writing and/or provide additional information. (Failure to respond adequately may result in the Tenderer not being selected).

### Customer References

## Unless Authority may visit at least one customer reference site of the Tenderer and may seek written references from any other designated customers which are not visited.

### Notification of Award

## The Authority will notify the successful Tenderer(s) of their award of the contract in writing as per paragraph D.21 in this Invitation to Tender.

### Debriefing

## Following the conclusion of the Contract, all unsuccessful Tenderers will be afforded the opportunity of a debriefing. Unsuccessful Tenderers should notify the Authority in writing that they wish to be debriefed. The Authority will formally debrief the unsuccessful Tenderer within 15 days of receiving such a request.