



INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) for Deep Dives into Social Mobility: A Local Perspective Stage 2 & 3 Clarification Questions

Date: 16/10/2024

Q No	Question	Response
1	Demonstrate experience of the team doing relevant work (is this specific in work related to social mobility sector or can other socio-economic sectoral work be included.)	We are happy to see either of those types of experience, plus any other relevant experience.
2	The ITT's bid format section mentions the inclusion of references (section 6). Could you please provide more details on this requirement? Is there a specified minimum number of references that need to be included for the tender?	There is no minimum number of references, but please note that overall section 5 - 6, which the references include, should not exceed 2 sides of A4.
3	I understand from the names of the documents that you are commissioning stages 2 and 3 of the research, however I only see a description for stage 2. Are you also commissioning the third stage at this point or will this come later?	Apologies for not being clear enough, this tender document includes both stage 2 and stage 3.
4	Would it be possible to let us know which version of the Intellectual Property clause you would intend to use for this contract please? i.e. whether it is the existing Clause 10 of the terms, or one of the versions in Annex 5.	The SMC will use the existing Clause 10 for the IP clause.
5a	Can the Authority confirm whether suppliers are able to include links within our submission?	This is acceptable but please only include relevant links in the bid.
5b	Are we able to submit our response as a PDF?	The SMC will accept bids as word documents or PDF.
6a	As part of Deliverable 1, would the Commission consider also incorporating an analysis of 'perceived' social mobility, which we could measure through nationally representative survey-based primary data?	No, this is captured in the first stage of the Deep Dives project for which we have already secured a supplier.
6b	If yes to Question 1, would the Commission be open to including modelled data (using techniques like Multi-level Regression with Poststratification/MRP) to achieve Local Authority-level granularity with reduced levels of bias?	Yes, the commission would be open to this. A variety of analytical approaches would be welcome if well-justified.
6c	Will the Commission be able to share full raw data files for all aspects feeding into the Social Mobility Index (SMI) and the Promising Prospects Index?	Data from our promising prospects index and all other indicators is available on our data explorer tool . The SMC would be open to further

		discussion about data access depending on the request and need.
6d	Would the Commission be comfortable with us providing data and outputs in a variety of formats including traditional Microsoft Office but also online dashboards?	Yes, potentially. However, the Commission would have to understand more about the utility and purpose of the online dashboards, and why these would work better.
7a	In the first deliverable, it is mentioned that prospective suppliers can propose alternative definitions for identifying areas with high or low social mobility, as well as using the indicators from the Social Mobility Index (SMI) featured in the State of the Nation reports. Could you please clarify whether proposing an alternative definition would be scored more favourably, and if so, what factors or criteria will be used to evaluate this?	Areas defined using an alternative approach will not be scored any differently to those defined using our Social Mobility Index. All definitions will be evaluated on the basis of the rationale provided.
7b	The tender document indicates expected timelines for each deliverable. Would it be possible to propose alternative timelines for the deliverables, and if so, how will these be assessed in terms of feasibility and alignment with the overall project objectives?	The SMC would accept alternative timelines for the deliverables with clear rationale. The overall contract is to be completed by 29 May 2026.
7c	The tender document specifies that the proposal should not exceed 10 sides. Could you please confirm whether a title page/cover and a table of contents can be included without counting towards the 10-slide limit?	The SMC is happy to not include title page/ cover page and table of contents in the 10 slide limit.
7d	Could you please clarify exactly what is expected to be covered in Section 6? Should we include case studies, client testimonials, or something else?	The SMC would expect to see previous work which relates to the tender. We are happy to accept this in a format the bidder sees as appropriate for the tender and bid.
7e	Taking into account the following evaluation criterion: "Clear articulation of plans for presenting work in clear way". Can you confirm whether a formal communication plan is expected to be included in our response, and if so, in which section it should be placed?	A communication plan is not expected to be included. The SMC expects plans in the bid which relate to the tender to be presented in the bid in a clear way.
7f	On the section "Taking Account of Bidders' Past Performance" it is mentioned that the Social Mobility Commission may assess the past performance of a Supplier and may also assess whether specified minimum standards for reliability for such contracts are met. Could you please clarify: - What evidence or supporting documents related to past performance and reliability are required for submission at this point (bidding stage)? - Is there any additional information or documents we should include to demonstrate compliance with the specified minimum standards for reliability at this point (bidding stage)?	At the bidding stage, it is only expected that the bids complete the declarations.
7g	Before converting the proposal to PDF format, could you please confirm whether the original submission can be prepared in either Word or PowerPoint, considering the specified page count and formatting requirements?	This is acceptable.
7h	Regarding the evaluation criterion for presenting findings in visual formats, do you expect a visual graphic designer to be involved in the production of the final deliverables, or is the focus primarily on content clarity for different audiences?	This is for the bidder to decide in relation to the bid, the SMC only expects that the findings are presented both in writing and visual manner, to consider the different audiences. In relation to the deliverables 4 from the tender, there is not an expectation that the report will be designed by the supplier. This will be part of the SMC responsibility to design the report.

7i	In the context of this bid, could you provide a definition of your focus regarding social mobility? Specifically, should we concentrate solely on upward mobility, or should we also take downward mobility into account? (and if so, would you expect both upward and downward mobility to be given equal consideration)?	More emphasis will be weighted to upward mobility.
7j	In the ITT, it states: "if the Contracting Authority considers any question or request for clarification to be of general significance, both the question and the response will be communicated, in a suitably anonymous form, to all Bidders who have expressed an interest before the closing date for the submission of the ITT" However, there is no mention of a formal process or form to express interest in participating in the bid. Could you kindly clarify the procedure for expressing interest?	All clarification questions will be publicly available on Contract Finder, therefore will be available for any bidders who have an interest. Apologies, this was not clear, the SMC will ensure this is more clearer in future tenders.