**SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT DAY - FURTHER INFORMATION AND REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK** - ***“MARKET ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE”***

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| PROJECT | **Chichester City Centre Digital Improvement Project - Mobile and Fixed Line** |

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| **NAME OF ORGANISATION** | **West Sussex County Council** |

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| This document should be completed and returned in accordance with the Guidance for Providers |
| Completed questionnaires submitted by: | 13/01/2025 at 5pm |
| To: | Digital Infrastructure Group |
| Email address: | DL.Digital.infrastructure.Group@westsussex.gov.uk |

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* 1. **Context and Opportunity**

This is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to improve Digital connectivity- mobile and fixed line- in the vibrant city centre of Chichester as part of the Council’s regeneration program.

West Sussex County Council is working in partnership with Chichester District Council and Chichester City Council to deliver its strategic ambitions- to improve both mobile and fixed fibre connectivity to businesses, residents and visitors in the city’s busy centre. Our aim is to work with partners to co-design and build digital infrastructure that can enable improved 4G and FTTP services in the immediate term as well as future proof for future technologies, thereby enhancing the public realm.

High quality digital connectivity will be a key element of the City Centre’s Public Regeneration project. The project seeks to leverage the public realm regeneration to drive digital investment by offering a dig once approach to partners under the Council’s “OpenDig” principle, supported by the Council’s lane rental scheme. The Councils will play a “barrier busting” role to enable telecoms stakeholders to: share the works site; make use of council-owned assets and street furniture; engage with Planning Services and key stakeholders.

WSCC’s “OpenDig” approach will facilitate joined up working with utilities, street works and Planning Services as part of this project to enable more efficient and cost-effective deployment of infrastructure. Chichester city centre is made up of four main roads in a crossroad formation:

* **North Street\***
* **South Street**
* **East Street\***
* **West Street**

As part of the wider public realm project, the pedestrianised North\* and East\* streets will be regenerated to provide the community an improved urban environment which will benefit residents, businesses and visitors by providing more attractive, functional and inclusive spaces. This will include (but not be limited to) the resurfacing of pavements, improved street furniture, and a more dynamic street design. This will give a window of opportunity for discussions around the best placement of underground telecoms infrastructure and digitally enabled street furniture which will best serve the ambitions of the Council for its residents and businesses. More information will be made available at the supplier 1-2-1 sessions.

South and West streets are not part of the regeneration project of Chichester’s public realm space but have the same challenges in terms of poor mobile coverage. We do however view Chichester centre holistically and seek partners to work with us in all four streets to provide enhanced connectivity to this wider city centre area. The opportunity will therefore also extend to South and West streets which would benefit from solutions that require less civils.

This city centre digital improvement opportunity could include the installation of: new fiber optic cables, ducting, power, utility poles. There may also be scope for the use of existing or new council owned assets e.g. buildings, street furniture etc. Key considerations include the project's potential to:

* increase fixed line (fibre) and mobile connectivity (4G and potentially 5G coverage, capacity)
* support our Connected Places initiatives (please see further info below)

We are looking for one or more strategic partner(s) to deliver improved mobile and fixed fibre to the four-city centre principal retail streets.

In addition to the Chichester opportunity, WSCC is also leading on the delivery of mobile and fixed digital infrastructure for the county with 7 further local authorities (see below). The Chichester project will serve as an initial trial to explore how a longer-term strategic partnership may benefit the wider county of West Sussex to include some or all of the District and Borough councils:

* Adur District Council
* Arun District Council
* Chichester District Council
* Crawley Borough Council
* Horsham District Council
* Mid Sussex District Council
* Worthing Borough Council

West Sussex County Council introduced their Lane Rental scheme on 1st December 2022

The West Sussex Lane Rental Scheme (“**WSLRS**”) was introduced to enable West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to support their duty to co-ordinate and manage all street and road works, also known as activities, on the highway, to minimise disruption.

West Sussex County Council administers the West Sussex Lane Rental Surplus Funds which is available for initiatives and projects that are aligned with the objectives of the WSLRS. In 121 discussion sessions we will explore eligibility for partners to bid into this scheme to support the works.

**1.2 Connected Places strategic ambition**

West Sussex County Council, together with the county’s District and Borough councils recognise the importance of high quality, accessible and affordable digital infrastructure in supporting the county’s resilience, enabling sustainable growth and responding to environmental challenges.

Our strategic priorities are:

* **To enable future-ready infrastructure that will support our diverse economy and**  **stimulate growth and innovation.**
* **To enable the creation of connected places, unlocking value for communities,**  **businesses, public services and the environment.**

As well as easily accessible access to fibre for homes and businesses, places that are connected by advanced wireless technologies are increasingly important. Our aim for West Sussex connected places is that they are able to support the numerous seamless, secure and instant interactions between people, places and things needed for prosperous, healthy and sustainable living now and in the future. Our Connected Places ambition aims to respond to current and future demand for mobile and fibre services through open access infrastructure that will support smart technologies across a range of sectors including: public service delivery; educational settings including research; environmental monitoring, conservation; public safety and wellbeing; economic activity and innovation; smart management of the public realm.

In Chichester city centre specifically, our aim is to:

* Enable a smart city centre of the future – take advantage of technologies that can assist with traffic management, people flow, management of public real, public safety which rely on effective digital connectivity.
* Be infrastructure ready for 5g – to bolster communication and better resident/visitor and business experience from day-to-day interactions.
* Enable CCTV/Public Safety improvements- eg better connectivity to improve security for homes, businesses and communities by producing higher quality images.
* Unlock cultural & tourism benefits – eg creating immersive VR tours of historical sites, museums and landmarks.
* Better promote local arts and Heritage – showcase and increase participation in the diverse heritage, local arts, theatre, crafts through the use of digital technologies.
* Cashless Payments for street venders – faster connectivity and greater capacity to support current and future digital transactions.
* Real-time information – for our citizens to enjoy and benefit from better interaction with public services.

**1.3 Chichester**

The cathedral city of Chichester attracts large numbers of visitors each year, due to its historical and national importance and its established retail experience. It is also a centre for business and is also becoming a thriving place for students with a popular University and College. Chichester District’s tourism sector is identified as a key growth area, contributing approximately £317 million every year and sustaining 14% of the total workforce.

Chichester acts as a major regional provider of administration, retail, and cultural facilities. The culture, creative and digital sector is growing five times faster than the UK average and contributes £112 billion to the UK economy annually, employing over one million people. Chichester can amplify its case as a key location for this type of sectorial growth.

**1.4 Discovery Mapping Exercise – understanding the problem**

WSCC has undertaken an independent mobile mapping exercise to understand the 4G and 5G coverage and capacity across the city centre. The conclusions are that overall, there is poor availability across all 4 operators within the city centre. This is consistent with the feedback during public and business engagement.

The mapping will be made available during the 1-2-1 sessions with each responder.

**1.5 Procurement Overview**

West Sussex County Council intends to procure one or more suitable partners for the design, build, operation and potential commercialisation of above and below ground digital infrastructure.

The procurement will cover the following activities:

* Support the ambitions of a more connected city centre.
* Co-design of digital infrastructure to be delivered *as part of* the public realm scheme for North and East streets
* Co-design of digital infrastructure to be delivered *alongside* the public realm scheme for South and West streets
* Deliver digital infrastructure to support the requirements for city centre Use Cases e.g. CCTV, IoT, wayfinding, public 4G and 5G services.
* Collaborate with public sector bodies, businesses and project stakeholders to understand desired outcomes.
* Outline further strategic county wide opportunities across West Sussex for scaling up and/or replication across towns and cities of various sizes

The opportunity will be open to all suitably qualified suppliers able to deliver some or all of the requirements as single suppliers or in consortiums/partnerships.

**1.6 Confidentiality and Freedom of Information**

All information included in this document is confidential and only for the recipient’s knowledge.

Please be aware that we are subject to the disclosure requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) and that potentially any information we hold is liable to be disclosed under that Act. For this reason, we would strongly advise that any information you consider to be confidential is labelled as such.  Should a request be subsequently made for disclosure, under the FOIA, that request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.

Please note that all communications with WSCC in relation to this project, any query or question should be made in writing to rachel.ayres@westsussex.gov.uk . If a question you submit is commercially sensitive and you require a confidential response, please inform the Council and before providing a response we will confirm if the answer can be given confidentially.

**1.7 Process**

* Participants are invited to register their interest by 13th January 2025. Please attach any responses in word-format (format unchanged) via email to stacey.mcadie@westsussex.gov.uk by **1700** on 13th January 2025
* The Supplier engagement sessions on the which will be individual sessions between 27th January – 7th February 2025. Please indicate if you would be interested in attending a 1-2-1 session with the project team.
* For questions regarding this process, you are welcome to contact us via email at rachel.ayres@westsussex.gov.uk .

**2.0 Timetable for the Market Engagement**

We are undertaking a PIN and Market Engagement because:

* We want to gauge whether there are suppliers who are able to offer solutions that meet the Council’s objectives.
* You have market viability insights and expertise into what will or won’t work and how we might proceed with our intended business case, requirements and modelling development and any resulting procurement approach.
* The market engagement will be in confidence; we want you to be as open as possible.
* The Council does not commit to proceed with a procurement exercise following this market engagement.
* For the avoidance of doubt, no information provided in response to this questionnaire will be used by the Council in assessing suppliers now, or during any future procurement process.

The indicative timetable for the market engagement is below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Activity | Date |
| Deadline for confirming interest via email as detailed above | 13th Jan 2025 at 5pm |
| Supplier Engagement Day (1-2-1s sessions)**Times for 1-2-1 sessions will be confirmed nearer to the date** | w/c 27th January 2025 |

**2.1 Guidance for providers**

* Please assume that West Sussex County Council has no prior knowledge of the type of services you provide, or the work that your organisation has delivered, either in West Sussex or elsewhere.
* We are holding supplier engagement sessions on w/c 27th January 2025 in the form of individual 1-2-1 sessions with an introductory presentation and then a structured conversation to cover the topics of the questionnaire headings and an opportunity for general questions at the end. The venue is, County Hall in Chichester or via Teams Meeting. This will be an opportunity to discuss and ask questions. **Please inform us of your preference as soon as possible** to confirm you will be attending and to secure a 1-2-1 slot.
* The address for County Hall is below and there are various car parks nearby:

**County Hall**

**25 West St,**

**Chichester**

**PO19 1RQ**

**Supplier Questionnaire**

**Section 1 Supplier Information**

Full name, address and website

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation name |  |
| Address |  |
| Town/County |  |
| Postcode |  |
| Country |  |
| Website |  |

Main contact for correspondence about this questionnaire

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Telephone number |  |
| Mobile phone number |  |
| email address |  |

Company registration

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of formation |  |
| Place of formation |  |
| Date of registration |  |
| Company registration number |  |
| Brief Description of primary business activities and main products and services.  | (250 words or less) |

**Section 2 Supplier Interest**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Registration of Interest** |
| 1 | Please mark ‘X’ in the relevant box to indicate your interest in: |
| a. | Mobile connectivity eg 4G, 5G other | ☐ Yes☐ No |
| b. | Fixed line eg broadband for businesses and homes | ☐ Yes☐ No |
| c | Other- outline here in no more than 400 words any other interest. |  |
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