**HDC202304 – RFQ - Clarifications received up until 28th July 2023**

1. Will HDC be providing GIS files of land ownership?

The council will provide GIS layers of HDC owned land and countryside sites.

1. Will HDC be supplying the National Tree Map data for the element of the project?

Tree data is to be sourced by the successful bidder from either their preferred source or an agreed upon source between bidder and council.

1. Can the scope of the assessment be clarified, is just a figure on the CC over HDC required? What mapping is required in settlements?

Bidders should detail in their method statement their proposed approach to mapping and canopy cover assessments and how the data they intend to gather will best provide a comprehensive tree strategy and ongoing monitoring, in line with objectives, especially:

* Support parish councils with practical information and advice for their tree planting and where possible guide planting opportunities.
* Monitoring - record and assess net gain on an annual basis and reassess canopy cover in 5-10 years.

1. Can the scope of this element be clarified and what outcomes should be included in the strategy?

Outcomes should cover those listed in the objectives. Regarding canopy cover and settlement mapping specifically:

Climate change adaptation - protect, retain, manage, and plant trees to ensure an increased and sustainable increase of canopy cover of healthy trees and to reduce air pollution.

Support parish councils with practical information and advice for their tree planting and where possible guide planting opportunities.

Trees & Development – tree retention, protection and planting within development sites will be in accordance with the aims of the Tree Strategy, national and Local Plan policies and emerging supplementary planning documents. Where appropriate, the Council will use its powers under the Town & Country Planning Act to make Tree Preservation Orders.

1. Can the figures for the replacement and new plantings be provided?

The Tree strategy is expected to assess the figures for replacement plantings and identify opportunities for new planting.

1. Can the parameters and scope of the above element be clarified?

The council has no specified targets for either replacement or new plantings. The tree strategy should seek to allow for any emerging opportunities, both public and private, to address both climate impact on tree loss and canopy cover, to offset the council’s carbon footprint, environmental networking opportunities, and health and wellbeing. The Council Corporate Plan has a priority to meet emissions targets by 2035, and new tree planting to offset carbon emissions will form part of the approach to this, however tree planting sites with multifunctional benefits such as those listed above should be sought and prioritised.