

## **006004 - Local Full Fibre Network Market Engagement**

Newcastle City Council – 29.01.2019 (09:30 – onwards)

Civic Centre, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

### **Overview**

Newcastle City Council, on behalf of North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), are hosting a Market Engagement Day to enhance the NTCA's ambition to move to fibre infrastructure across a range of public sites throughout the region. The NTCA is currently in dialogue with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Local Full Fibre Network Programme.

The NTCA is a combined authority that covers the local authority areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, in the North East of England. The area covers both urban and rural geographies, totalling 5,209km<sup>2</sup> with a total population of 815,787 in 373,570 residential dwellings. The NTCA also contains 23,610 businesses. NTCA is a diverse area, extending from its major city through a network of suburban, market and coastal towns to high-quality countryside and rural towns. NTCA is a highly coherent functional economic geography with strong internal commuting flows, a primary functional housing market and strong business linkages in key growth sectors.

At present our proposed project would be predominantly based on the procurement of dark fibre/gigabit capable infrastructure connecting public sector sites across Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. This could be made up of a single large dark fibre network, however we anticipate that the significant geographic area we are seeking to cover may result in the procurement of more than one network from one or more suppliers. It is conceivable that this could be delivered by one supplier who specialises in urban areas and a second supplier who specialises in rural areas for example.

Where it is not viable to deploy dark fibre infrastructure, we would seek to procure full fibre connectivity to key strategic sites via a separate procurement.

It is expected that by adopting complimentary approaches this would extend the availability of full fibre infrastructure to sites that are currently unable to access cost effective gigabit capable connectivity.

We are currently in dialogue phase with DCMS for this process, which requires the funding to be spent by March 2021.

The Councils proposed route to market is via CCS RM1045 Network Services Framework Lot 1 – suppliers approved on this framework will be prioritised for the event.

### **Current WAN sites**

We have included all public sector sites currently connected to the wide area networks of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. This totals 752 sites and includes corporate sites, schools, libraries, care homes, CCTV, etc (299,130 and 322 sites respectively for Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland). We have included all public sector sites currently connected via the three Council's, however it is expected that not all of these would be viable due to the significant geographic area covered. This also currently includes schools across the region, however this would be dependent on securing appropriate commitment at full bid stage as schools may decide to not take part and procure connectivity independently.

Due to the variation in geography and distance, it is envisaged that this Programme/Procurement will involve a combination of DCMS's PSAT (Public Sector Anchor Tenancy) and PSBU (Public Sector Building Upgrade) approaches. There is also the potential to speed up infrastructure deployment through the use of existing ducting assets.

See *Combined Site List.xlsx* for the current list with location details.

### **Timescales**

We are looking to deploy half of this project using DCMS funding, the other being funded by the three Authorities. DCMS have stipulated that their funding must be spent by March 2021. We will be seeking assurances from suppliers that this timeframe is achievable and will be looking to discuss this with options and suggestions for phasing and innovative approaches on the day.

### **Anticipated Benefits**

Reduced local authority connectivity operating costs whilst providing a future-proof infrastructure able to deal with the increasing bandwidth demands of the future.

Provide a solid foundation that could expand to the wider region to further extend the benefits of the investment.

Increased competition at the infrastructure / wholesale level for digital connectivity in the area which would improve both the availability and price of high speed and low-latency connectivity for businesses and residents throughout the region.

Help the region remain competitive both nationally and internationally.

### **Format for the Day**

The day will begin with a short presentation by the Project Team at 9.30am, where we will discuss the LFFN programme and our progress in more detail. There will be opportunities to ask questions in this forum at the end of the presentation.

Suppliers interested in this procurement will need to register their interest before the day and will then be assigned a half hour slot to discuss this one to one. Presentation facilities will be available.

**Please contact Aaron Rush – Lead Specialist to book a slot on the event :**  
[aaron.rush@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:aaron.rush@newcastle.gov.uk)