**Clarifications to Bidders Questions - Investigation into potential disturbance on South Pennine Moors**

**Q1. The surveys to determine number of visitors, demographics, origin and type of activity. Are we correct in assuming you envisage collection of new data here or have you any existing data in mind. End of September over autumn and winter to end of March isn’t perhaps the optimum time to be collecting new data if in the field, or are you expecting market-research-type surveys, either online or by mail?**

**Q2. Is there an expectation to complete comprehensive access pressure data collection such as people counting – either on site or remotely?**

A: For the collection of data, it will be up to the contractor to determine the most suitable methodology and we are open to new and/or existing data and novel methodologies being used. If existing data is to be used, it would be up to the contractor to determine what data is relevant and you could do this by talking to local authorities (for which we can supply contacts) and NGOs etc. We acknowledge that if surveys are undertaken (as part of the methodology) that they may be carried out during sub-optimal periods, but unfortunately this is due to non-negotiable funding restrictions on our side. We would be open to hearing about methodologies that could work around the sub-optimal period. To reiterate we will assess the submission of any proposals based on the methodology, understanding of NEs requirements, management of sustainability and social value, healthy and safety and key personnel.

**Q3. Are housing growth and projected growth data available or is the contractor expected to model these?**

A: Yes, these should be available. Each local authority produces a strategic housing land availability assessment (SHLAA) as part of their local plan. You should be able to obtain housing trajectory numbers (or similar evidence) from each local plan.

**Q4. Q4 refers to the Sustainable Development Goals – for clarity are these the ones to be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals--2 ?**

A: Yes these are the sustainable development goals we are referring to. I think the wording to this question is a bit confusing but really all we want to know is how you are going to ensure that the project is delivered sustainably and how this might relate to your environmental and social policies.

**Q5: Please could you send a copy / link to the  Environmental Improvement Plan for the South Pennines (mentioned in the middle paragraph of page 10) or confirm that Site Improvement Plan: South Pennine Moors (SIP225)  is the document that is referred to in the RfQ** ([https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5412834661892096](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublications.naturalengland.org.uk%2Fpublication%2F5412834661892096&data=05%7C01%7CNE_Contracts_Finder%40naturalengland.org.uk%7C8096aa6d8ab34028c39208dba3e09a78%7C770a245002274c6290c74e38537f1102%7C0%7C0%7C638283957276185844%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=R3ILDIRuN3LcRUVCRknyQMI3f0OSU25q6wzZz8sQLXY%3D&reserved=0))?

A: Yes, this is the document we are referring to.

**Q6: Also on page 10 it mentions bullet 1 that the sites are the largest area of unenclosed moorland in West Yorkshire. Having reviewed the sites on Magic, it appears that they also overlap into Greater Manchester, Staffordshire, Lancashire, South Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Please could you confirm that this is the case and that the area of focus includes these counties and their Local Planning Authorities (districts / metropolitan boroughs**)?

A: Yes, it does cover all these areas.

**Q7: Although upland / ground nesting birds such as golden plover are mentioned in the brief, no mention is made of Merlin, Short Eared Owl and other raptors mentioned in the conservation advice for the SAC / SPAs. Can you confirm that the challenges to raptors and other species from recreation, should also be included in the study?**

A: Your methodology should include any impacts to the notified features within the SSSI / SAC / SPA.

**Q8: Although the RfQ focusses on new housing development and the additional recreational pressure resulting from that, should it also address other pressures such as over stocking, management for game and climate change or are these matters outside the scope?**

A: The primary purpose is to determine recreational pressure from housing development, but it will be up to your methodology to determine whether in-combination impacts should be considered.

**Q9: It is noted that the study is to be completed between September 2023 and March 2024 which is outside of the peak for summer visitors. Are there any studies carried out by Natural England, the National Park Authorities or other local partners, that the team are aware of, carried out in the area in the last ten years (pre and post pandemic), or will researching such studies be part of the role of the consultants?**

A: For the collection of data, it will be up to the contractor to determine the most suitable methodology and we are open to new and/or existing data and novel methodologies being used. If existing data is to be used, it would be up to the contractor to determine what data is relevant and you could do this by talking to local authorities (for which we can supply contacts) and NGOs etc. We acknowledge that if surveys are undertaken (as part of the methodology) that they may be carried out during sub-optimal periods, but unfortunately this is due to non-negotiable funding restrictions on our side.  We would be open to hearing about methodologies that could work around the sub-optimal period. To reiterate we will assess the submission of any proposals based on the methodology, understanding of NEs requirements, management of sustainability and social value, healthy and safety and key personnel.

**Q: Can you please confirm the budget amount?**

A: The maximum is £45k including any taxes.