

PSC Scope template – ESE

NEC4 professional services contract (PSC)



Environment
Agency

412_13_SD02



Environment Agency NEC4 professional services contract (PSC) Scope

Project / contract Information

Project name	MHCLG - Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework Sustainability Appraisal - Research
Project SOP reference	N/A
Contract reference	CPD/004/120/222
Date	13/08/2020
Version number	1.0
Author	MHCLG

Revision history

Revision date	Summary of changes	Version number
	First issue	

This Scope should be read in conjunction with the version of the Minimum Technical Requirements current at the Contract Date. In the event of conflict, this Scope shall prevail. The *services* are to be compliant with the version of the Minimum Technical Requirements.

customer service line
03708 506 506

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

Details of the Scope

Details of the Scope are as follows.

1. Background

1.1. Background to the Contracting Authority

- 1.1.1. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is responsible for Government policy relating to housing, planning, building safety, local growth, local government, integration and community cohesion.
- 1.1.2. In November 2017, the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) published their report '[Partnering for Prosperity – a new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc](#)' which outlined the growth potential of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (the Arc) and recommended a series of interventions to address constraints to growth.
- 1.1.3. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Unit (OxCam Unit) was formed in 2018 to produce a Government response to the 'Partnering for Prosperity' report and coordinate policy work related to the Arc across Government under four policy pillars; productivity, connectivity, place making, and the environment.
- 1.1.4. The OxCam Unit is based in the Housing Delivery Directorate of MHCLG.

1.2. Background to the requirement

- 1.2.1. The area between Oxford and Cambridge, incorporating the ceremonial county areas of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire, forms a core region that the government recognises as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc ('The Arc').
- 1.2.2. The Government formally [responded](#) to '[Partnering for Prosperity](#)' at Budget 2018 and confirmed that the Arc is a key economic priority. The Government is committed to supporting the delivery of the homes and infrastructure that the Arc needs to meet its growth potential and tackle housing affordability pressures. All of this is underpinned by a commitment to improve the environment for future generations.
- 1.2.3. In March 2019, government and local partners restated their commitment to the Arc in '[The Oxford-Cambridge Arc: government ambition and joint declaration between government and local partners](#)'.
- 1.2.4. Following this, government announced in January 2020 [Route E as the preferred route option of East West Rail Central Section](#), a railway between Bedford and Cambridge.
- 1.2.5. The NIC recommended that an Arc-wide, long-term spatial vision is developed by the Government and local partners as the starting point for realising the Arc's potential.
- 1.2.6. Work has been undertaken to engage with local stakeholders on meeting shared objectives for strategic planning in the Arc and to consider options for taking forward any potential spatial framework.
- 1.2.7. At Budget 2020, the Chancellor announced plans to develop, with local partners, a long-term spatial framework to support strategic planning in the OxCam Arc.
- 1.2.8. MHCLG intends to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Arc to embed sustainability into development of the principles and outputs of the Arc-wide spatial framework. This will include, where relevant, a Strategic

Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) pursuant to:

- 1.2.8.1. EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC¹, and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations)
- 1.2.8.2. EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC² and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations)
- 1.2.9. The SA will begin ahead of, and alongside, development of the spatial framework to ensure sustainability is taken in to account from the outset.
- 1.2.10. In order to explore options around environmental assessments, MHCLG seconded in resource from the National Environmental Assessment and Sustainability (NEAS) team in the Environment Agency.
- 1.2.11. A tailored approach to the SA has been developed that assesses how sustainability issues are addressed during the development of the content of the spatial framework. This embeds the assessment team with those developing the spatial framework to enable them to drive the development of more sustainable policies within the framework.
- 1.2.12. The development of the spatial framework will need to consider how it aligns with various government commitments and targets. Significant drivers include the legal obligation for the net UK carbon account for the year 2050 to be at least one hundred percent lower than the 1990 baseline and commitments within the [25 Year Environment Plan](#) and [Clean Growth Strategy](#), amongst others.
- 1.2.13. The development of the framework and the SA is to be based on a single, robust baseline evidence base.
- 1.2.14. As part of the spatial framework, a data observatory may be produced. It is possible that some of the SA evidence base may form part of any data observatory.
- 1.2.15. While the SA will likely be undertaken and led by NEAS, additional support is being procured via the Client Support Framework to:
 - 1.2.15.1. Develop baseline information and an evidence base, including GIS data, for the SA, enabling it to be stored in a standardised format on a data observatory.
 - 1.2.15.2. Analyse the baseline information to identify patterns and trends to be taken into account by the development of the framework.
 - 1.2.15.3. Support stakeholder engagement.
 - 1.2.15.4. Identify opportunities for the provision of environmental and social outcomes with the potential to be delivered as part of the development of the Arc.

2. Description of the work:

2.1. Objective

The objective is to ensure that there is a robust and extensive environmental and social evidence base that can be used to carry out the sustainability appraisal and, where relevant,

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

² Directive 92/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora,

for the SEA and HRA for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, help to fulfil potential requirements under the SEA and HRA regulations, and support the development of the Spatial Framework.

The economic evidence base to inform the sustainability appraisal is not necessarily a part of this scope and can be commissioned from a separate supplier, however if the supplier is able to demonstrate the expertise and knowledge needed to provide the economic evidence base to inform the SA and would like to perform this function in addition to the rest of the work outlined in this scoping document, they should include this in their bid.

3. Outcome Specification

Outcomes required

- a. The *Consultant* shall review and collate an environmental and social evidence base to support the sustainability appraisal and spatial framework for the OxCam Arc. This should take the form of:
 - i. a systematic review and concise summary of the existing evidence available;
 - ii. analysis of patterns and trends within the data.
 - iii. analysis of gaps regarding environment and sustainability related evidence.
 - iv. a plan, policy and programme review including a description of the plan, policy or programme, key themes, and the identification of key interactions and conflicts with the spatial framework.
 - v. where feasible, provided in mapped form for inclusion in a data observatory.
- b. The *Consultant shall* provide a written summary of the environmental, social and economic baseline, and the plan, policy and programme review as a contribution to formal SA outputs (scoping report and SA environmental report). Please note that the economic evidence base will be provided to the *Consultant* so that a summary of this can be provided.
- c. The *Consultant shall* maintain an evidence base, and update it where required, to demonstrate how the assessment criteria have been addressed in the plan, including a record of decisions affecting issues addressed by the assessment criteria.
- d. The *Consultant* shall identify opportunities for the provision of environmental and social outcomes as part of the spatial framework in line with government policies and commitments.
- e. The *Consultant* shall support stakeholder engagement activities by;
 - i. Developing documents, presentations and visual materials,
 - ii. Attendance at meetings and workshops,
 - iii. Maintaining a record of stakeholder inputs to the SA and/or spatial framework.
- f. The *Consultant* shall work in a collaborative way with the Environment Agency and MHCLG, with attendance at key meetings required and working from the MHCLG Marsham Street office in London if necessary. The *Consultant* shall contribute to the development of the SA methodology and the spatial framework through raising issues, suggesting ideas and approaches and providing feedback on work undertaken.
- g. The *Consultant* shall have access to and utilise the required specialists as required. This could include, but is not limited to, landscape architects, archaeologists, ecologists, etc.

4. Constraints on how the *Consultant* provides the services

- a. The *Consultant* shall ensure that appropriate use is made of existing data, to avoid duplicating work already undertaken. Relevant *Client* data is identified in Appendix A. In addition, any other existing sources known to the *Consultant* should be utilised.

5. Exclusions

N/A

6. Specifications or standards to be used

- a. The *Consultant* will require an understanding of the application of the SEA Regulations and HRA Regulations.
- b. The *Consultant* will require an understanding of the application of the SEA Regulations within a Sustainability Appraisal context.
- c. The *Consultant* will require an understanding of the application of the SEA Regulations and HRA Regulations across a wide geographic area.
- d. The *Consultant* will have GIS capability to map data.
- e. The *Consultant* will require an understanding of identifying environment and social opportunities
- f. Experience or understanding of sustainability rating schemes such as CEEQUAL or BREEAM would be beneficial.

7. Services and other things provided by the *Client*

- a. The SA approach is being developed by NEAS and the appraisal will be led by member of this team.
- b. The spatial framework is being developed by MHCLG.

8. Contract length

- a. The contract will be for an initial period of 12 months, with the option to extend for two subsequent periods of 6 months.

9. Budget

- a. The *budget* for this work is up to a maximum of £200,000 (excluding VAT).
- b. We have made up to £200,000 available for bids that can demonstrate value for money to deliver the full scope of services set out in this Scope document.
- c. The tender shall be assessed on an 80 : 20 - Quality : Price basis.

Appendix A Existing Information

Title	Format	Available from
<i>Partnering for Prosperity, a new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc</i>	PDF	NIC Website
Government response to <i>Partnering for Prosperity</i>	PDF	MHCLG Website
The Oxford-Cambridge Arc: government ambition and joint declaration between government and local partners	PDF	MHCLG Website
25 Year Environment Plan and Supplementary Evidence	PDF and HTML	Government Website

Additional information will be provided to the successful supplier upon appointment.

Appendix B Definitions

The below is a list of terms and acronyms used in this scop.

Expression or Acronym	Definition
HRA	means Habitats Regulations Assessment
MHCLG	means the 'Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government'
NEAS	means the National Environmental Assessment and Sustainability team in the Environment Agency.
OxCam or the Arc	means The Oxford-Cambridge Arc
SA	means Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	means Strategic Environmental Assessment
The OxCam Unit	means the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Unit within MHCLG

Appendix C Contract Timeline

The following milestones shall apply.

Item	Responsible Party	Date
Publication of Procurement Notice and ITT	Customer	Weds 12 August 2020
Clarification period starts	Customer	Weds 12 August 2020
Supplier Clarification Conference Call	Customer and Supplier	Weds 02 September 2020
Clarification period closes (Bid Clarification Deadline)	Customer	Weds 09 September 2020 - 17:00 hrs
Deadline for the publication of responses to clarification questions	Customer	Weds 16 September 2020 - 17:00 hrs
Bid submission deadline	Supplier	Weds 23 September 2020 By 17:00 hrs
Commencement of Evaluation Process	Customer	Fri 25 September 2020
Bidder Presentations (if required)	Customer and Supplier	w/c 05 October 2020
Proposed Award Date of Contract	Customer	Mon 12 October 2020
Expected signature date for Contract(s)	Customer and Supplier	Thurs 15 October 2020
Expected commencement date for Contract(s)	Customer and Supplier	Mon 19 October 2020