**Rethinking Water: Citizens’ Jury Planning and Facilitation**

**Specification**

# Background to the Requirement

We need to change how we think about water and we need to do it now. If we do not, the climate crisis, population growth, and the way we use our land is going to make managing water, and balancing the needs of wildlife with ours, an impossible task. Water security is one of the most pressing societal challenges globally, affecting over 700 million people in 43 countries and it is predicted to affect up to 1.8 billion people by 2025.

Research has demonstrated that one of the primary effects of climate change is the disruption of the water cycle through changing precipitation patterns, increased drought and increased flooding. These changes will soon start to impact on more and more aspects of everyday life and planning, from the availability of drinking water supplies through to sanitation and food and energy production.

However, our water environments are already being actively challenged even before the long-term impacts of climate change are mitigated or experienced in full. Data collection suggests that overall improvement in water quality is levelling off and continued improvements will be difficult to achieve.

To continue to protect and restore our environment, it is crucial to engage the wider population in place-based management to shape practices and deliver changes in behaviour.

To help us achieve this, we plan to stimulate engagement through running a series of “Citizens’ Juries” in three locations in England. This will also help us understand the ways in which people value water by establishing a national discussion that can help inform and guide future policy development.

Output from the Citizen’s Juries will enable influencers to understand the shape of local climate action, by providing insight into what people want in rural, urban & at national scales.

Ultimately, the Citizens’ Juries will provide the people’s mandate to make change happen as they will develop principles and recommendations for local environmental action within the context of climate resilience. The Citizens Juries will present their recommendations and issues to the Environment Agency Board of Directors and a virtual national forum of practitioners from the Environment Agency and the National Water Leaders Group, to enact the recommendations. The Environment Agency will then cascade the recommendations to local partners enabling new, targeted actions specific to their individual climate delivery frameworks. Finally, changes that are needed through policy or legislation will also be adopted by the Environment Agency nationally.

The Citizens’ Jury will be made up of 20-25 members of the public (Jurors) who will already have been selected and recruited. **Therefore, the selection and recruitment of Jurors will not form part of this contract.** The Environment Agency will provide you with the Jurors’ contact details during the planning phase.

Jurors will have been selected from the local area and stratified random sampling will ensure that the Jury as a whole is representative of that area’s wider population.

We have also put a panel of local and national partners (experts/witnesses) together who will give us access to wider expertise to feed into the conversation.

# Specific Objectives/Deliverables

The purposes of this fixed term contract are:

* to provide the expertise to design and deliver a participative democratic engagement process in the manner of a citizen jury, this financial year.
* to provide the Environment Agency with a robust plan for the organisation, delivery, and facilitation of two effective and engaging “Rethinking Water” Citizens’ Jury events consisting of people from the following areas: Manchester and Chichester
* to lead, in collaboration with the Environment Agency, on the organisation, delivery, and facilitation of the Citizens’ Jury.

 Deliverables and actions:

* to provide an effective plan for the event that focusses on positive outcomes and includes post event actions and follow up.
* to work collaboratively with the Environment on the planning and coordination of the event.
* to host and facilitate the event.
* To host information needed by the participants for the event
* to engage with the Environment Agency in post event mop up, decisions and recommendations.
* To provide the EA with the recommendations from the events

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that this event will be run online and the use of digital platforms to conduct each Jury should be considered.

Once the closing date for expressions of interest has passed, all parties who have expressed an interest in tendering will be given the opportunity to provide a quote. You will be asked to provide a separate quote for each individual event AND a quote for both events combined. Please provide a breakdown of all costs in your quote so that it is clear what option you are quoting.

Any per diems or accommodation, travel and subsistence costs for Jurors and expert witnesses as well as venue hire and catering, where applicable, will also need to be factored in to your quote(s).

### Timescales/Deadlines

Our aim is to run these events within the current financial year.

### Skills of Personnel Required

To deliver this work we would anticipate that the contractor would have proven experience of planning, delivering and facilitating effective and productive Citizens’ Juries.