

A Soft Market Investigation

For

Consultancy services to conduct and produce a
Local Area Energy Plan for the County of
Cambridgeshire

Ref: 23051

Section 1: Introduction

1. General Requirements

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to briefly explain to suppliers the business and technical requirements and the expected scope of Consultancy services to support the delivery of Local Area Energy planning for Cambridgeshire in order that suppliers can explain the relevance of products, services and their experience to the requirements.
- 1.2. Cambridgeshire County Council is leading the procurement on behalf of all of the steering group partners.
- 1.3. The Steering Group consists of the following organisations:
 - 1.3.1.1. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
 - 1.3.1.2. Fenland District Council
 - 1.3.1.3. East Cambridgeshire District Council
 - 1.3.1.4. Huntingdonshire District Council
 - 1.3.1.5. South Cambridgeshire District Council
 - 1.3.1.6. Cambridge City Council
 - 1.3.1.7. UK Power Networks
 - 1.3.1.8. Greater Southeast Net Zero Hub
 - 1.3.1.9. Cambridge University
 - 1.3.1.10. Anglia Ruskin University
- 1.4. Suppliers can find out more about the Procurement and Commercial Teams tender process, role and strategies via the [Supplying to the Council](#) webpage.
- 1.5. Suppliers should also note that Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) also evaluates Social Value within its tender process where appropriate and utilises the services of the Social Value Portal (SVP) as part of the process.
- 1.6. SVP run monthly training sessions for bidders/Suppliers on Social Value, please see [here](#) for details of the sessions that you can join to understand more about Social Value. Additionally, there is further resources from SVP here as well [Win More Bids \(socialvalueportal.com\)](#).
- 1.7. **Please note:** this market testing exercise is **not** an invitation to tender or a request for formal expressions of interest. This document does not form any part of an invitation to tender. CCC is issuing this request for **information only**. Any supplier invited to present to CCC is doing so to support market research only and to help

make any potential procurement process more focused and efficient. No supplier selection or supplier preference is implied.

2. Soft Market Test Timetable

- 2.1. Please read this document and if you feel that your organisation is able to contribute to this exercise, please complete the questionnaire found at the following: <https://forms.office.com/e/dQzDGB0EwF> by **1st November 2023**
- 2.2. If you have case studies or information you wish to share that would be relevant please send to procurementandcommercial@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with the subject header: 'Soft Market - 23051 Local Area Energy Plan'.
- 2.3. Potential responders will not be prejudiced in any future procurement processes by either responding or not responding to this soft market test exercise.
- 2.4. The Council is looking to publish the tender opportunity in late Autumn 2023 informed by this soft market testing.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council is working with key partners including all the Local Authorities in Cambridgeshire plus the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), Greater South East Net Zero Hub and UKPower Networks to undertake Local Area Energy planning for Cambridgeshire.
- 3.2 The ambition of this work is to plan for getting to Net Zero to support the local economy and build local energy resilience and security. All the Local Authorities and the CPCA are working towards the Net Zero ambition and want to achieve this in the most effective way they can.
- 3.3 Cambridgeshire County Council's vision is to deliver net-zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045, in partnership with all stakeholders, whilst supporting our communities and Cambridgeshire's biodiversity and environmental assets to adapt and flourish as our climate changes.
- 3.3. The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has set ambitious targets to be Net Zero for Cambridgeshire by 2045. This sets out the council's climate and environment ambitions and targets.
- 3.4. More details can be found in Cambridgeshire County Council's [Climate Change and Environment Strategy](#), the CPCA [Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority](#), Huntingdonshire District Council's [Climate Strategy](#), [South Cambs District Council](#) , [Climate Change Strategy - Cambridge City Council](#)

3.5. Please also see the website www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

4. Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

4.1. **Please note:** all information included in this Soft Market Testing is confidential and only for the recipients' knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party without prior written authorisation.

4.2. All responses will be treated confidentially. However, please be aware that we are subject to the disclosure requirements of the FOI Act and that potentially any information we hold is liable to disclosure under that Act. For this reason, we strongly advise that any information you consider to be confidential is labelled as such. In the event that a request is subsequently made for disclosure under FOI the request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.

Section 2: Identification of Requirement

5. Current Situation

- 5.1. The Government's Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget (i.e., years 2033-37) identified that to continue to reduce emissions from the energy sector while meeting the future demands from the electrification of heat and transport, substantial reform to the national energy system is needed and in particular to the electricity system.
- 5.2. The future electricity demand profile for the UK identifies there will be at least a doubling of demand by 2050 compared to usage at 2018 levels, even after all energy efficiency efforts have been made. More locally, the Greater Cambridge area we could see tripling in demand for electricity and this could be reflected across other parts of the County too.
- 5.3. The energy market is being reviewed as currently it is too complicated, fragmented and difficult to navigate to deliver the UK's net zero ambition and security ambitions. The development of smart local energy systems is the future. Critical to their development is the engagement and support of local communities and businesses to be more involved in the design and delivery of these systems. Local approaches will be key to achieve the electricity demand whilst delivering net zero, growth and resilience ambitions.
- 5.4. Achieving the national target of Net Zero by 2050 and the security and resilience needed for an advanced and prosperous economy, cannot be done without transitioning to a smart energy system and dealing with market and grid connection obstacles. For example, rebalancing the costs of gas and electricity, building up local energy supplies and achieving cost effective, timely grid connections for projects.

6. Our Requirements

- 6.1. To develop a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) understanding the energy data and future demand is key if we want to get to Net Zero at least cost with an optimised and efficient system. The LAEP process will need to inform policy, planning, investment and wider collaboration with key stakeholders to deliver Net Zero targets.
- 6.2. We are looking to appoint suitably qualified consultants that can support in the following key areas:
 - Detailed analysis of energy data to inform the quantum of infrastructure that will be needed to achieve net zero across the energy system including homes, businesses, grid upgrades, EV charging, battery storage etc. UKPN are building a digital platform hosting more than 100 data sets which can be used

to inform the analysis and it will be an important tool for consultants to understand and become familiar with.

For more information please refer to [UK Power Networks - opendatasoft.com](https://www.opendatasoft.com)

- Stakeholder engagement to understand the scope and scale of what is needed to get to Net Zero and where and how stakeholders can benefit and participate in the changes
- Policy sensitivity analysis of current strategies including government, local strategies, local land use plans to indicate a range of pathways and how they will influence delivery unless alignment can be managed to support the changes
- High level view of the delivery of infrastructure across Cambridgeshire including timing, dependencies, policy drivers and costings
- Detailed project pipeline planning to secure key building blocks that will support the delivery of net zero e.g Local Plan Policy, grid upgrades, retrofit skills etc.
- A financial business case that assesses the total cost to get net zero but segments this into the role of all stakeholders so there is a clear understanding that the total cost is made up of a range of investors and savings from all stakeholders.

6.3. The LAEP will focus on recommending costed solutions in a form ready for elected members to approve and the Council to implement, as well as a roadmap with options for further longer-term approval and implementation.

6.4. The LAEP must use data driven analysis to establish the necessary transformations and pathways to deliver on Net Zero for Cambridgeshire.

6.5. The project will follow LAEP defined principles for key stakeholder engagement, including consumer groups, social housing landlords, network utilities, large organisations, etc. The exact form of the stakeholder engagement will be defined in the initial stage.

7. Background – Social Value

7.1. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires public authorities to have regard to economic, social and environmental wellbeing in connection with public service contracts; and for connected purposes.

7.2. CCC now look to include social value as part of all its procurement opportunities which forms part of the overall Award criteria where appropriate.

- 7.3. Please note that any social value commitments should be appropriate to the local area. For CCC, 'local' is defined as being within the Cambridgeshire boundary area.
- 7.4. CCC will actively seek bidders who share their commitment to proactively deliver additional social value within Cambridgeshire outside of any core requirements within the specification.
- 7.5. Following the publication of the 2022 National Targets, Outcomes, and Measures (TOMs), the Council, working with the Social Value Portal developed a CCC specific set of TOMs.
- 7.6. The Council TOMs can be view here: [Cambridgeshire TOMS](#)
- 7.7. Please refer to and for more information about social please click on the link below:
- 7.8. [Social Value Portal](#)