# Soft Market Test

For

Services to support the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Cambridgeshire County Council

Ref:

# Section 1: Introduction

## General Requirements

The purpose of this document is to briefly explain to suppliers the business and technical requirements and the expected scope of exploring options to delivery various elements of a business support the development of the LNRS for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Council is inviting companies with experience in this area to provide information on your services and approach. The Council wishes to understand the marketplace and for suppliers to explain the relevance of their services and experience to this future opportunity.

We are close to publishing this opportunity, and though we believe our approach is suitable, to ensure we are pitching this right we are putting out a short soft market test to see whether we need to alter our approach.

* 1. **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. The Council is issuing this request for **information only**. Any supplier invited to present to the Council 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. **Please note:** if this exercise leads to a procurement being published, and you are interested in submitted a bid, please ensure you are registered with [ProContract](https://procontract.due-north.com/Login/Index?ReturnUrl=%2fLogin%2fLogoutConfirmation) as this is the E-tendering portal the Council uses. You can search for opportunities under the Cambridgeshire Public services within ProContract.

## Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

* 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.
	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.

## Background

The Council provides county-wide services to all its citizens, has numerous statutory responsibilities, including in respect of the provision of education, and supports blue light services, the health sector, charities, and other local Authorities.

The Council’s strategic objectives are to provide a good quality of life for everyone living in the county, creating thriving places for people to live and give the best start for Cambridgeshire’s children.

Please see website [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

* 1. The LNRS is a cross sector delivery mechanism for delivering nature restoration and will be utilised by many key organisations and stakeholders to delivery other environmental incentives.
	2. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough LNRS will be developed as an evidence based, locally led and collaborative approach. The area has already adopted a ‘Doubling Nature’ ambition that responds to the existing deficit of rich wildlife areas across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the national biodiversity decline.

## Soft Market Test Timetable

* 1. Please read this document and if you feel that your organisation is able to contribute to this exercise, please complete the questionnaire at the end of this document and return, via email to ProcurementandCommercial@cambridgeshire.gov.uk by 12:00 on Friday 28th July 2023.
	2. Following receipt of the questionnaires, the Council will review, and where necessary ask for clarification to all or some of the respondents to aid in the development of our final procurement requirements

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| **Stage** | **Date** |
| Issue of Soft Market test | Friday 21st July 2023 |
| Deadline for receipt of responses to Soft Market Test. | 12:00 Friday 28th July 2023 |
| Planned publication of procurement (no later) | Friday 4th August 2023 |

* 1. Potential responders will not be prejudiced in any future procurement processes by either responding or not responding to this soft market test exercise.

# Section 2: Identification of Requirement

## Our Requirements

* 1. Local nature recovery strategies (LNRS) are a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act 2021. The purpose of the strategy is to identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment. An LNRS must contain the following:
		1. Local Habitat Map
* National conservation sites in the strategy area.
* Nature reserves in the strategy area.
* Other areas that are important for biodiversity and nature recovery.
* Areas where biodiversity could contribute to other environment benefits.

* + 1. Statement of Biodiversity Priorities
	+ A description of the strategy area and its biodiversity
	+ Opportunities for recovering or enhancing biodiversity in the strategy area.
	+ Identify priorities for recovery or enhancing biodiversity in the strategy area including those that contribute to wider environmental benefits.
	+ Proposals to achieve these priorities.
	1. The LNRS will be developed by a ‘Responsible Authority (RA)’ as set out by Defra. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) are the RA for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. The CPCA have contracted the responsibility to Cambridgeshire County Council to develop the LNRS, working in partnership with Natural Cambridgeshire (Local Nature Partnership).
	2. The Production Group are the operational team working directly on developing the LNRS for the county and will report to the LNRS Steering Group. Information will be fed by the working groups to bring together all the relevant information required to write the LNRS. The main roles being:
* Local Nature Recovery Strategy Officer (position filled)
* GIS Support
* Author/ Editor

The requirements which are available for tender are:

Author/ Editor - the main role is to attend meetings/ workshops, capture and write up outputs, which will eventually feed into the written final strategy for C&P LNRS.

GIS support – main responsibility to provide specialist technical data and GIS support to the development of C&P LNRS.

**The assumptions of the programme:**

**Author/ editor -**

* The successful tenderer will participate in meetings/ workshops, however, is not expected to assist the organisation of the meetings/ workshops.
* The successful tenderer will
* Author/ Editor will report to the LNRS Steering Group, and all tasks must be reviewed and signed off by the LNRS Steering Group.

**GIS Support -**

* The successful tenderer will be expected to build upon and enhance existing mapping and data evidence exercise to support the overall development of C&P LNRS.
* GIS Support will report to the LNRS Steering Group, and all tasks must be reviewed and signed off by the LNRS Steering Group

The aim is to allow for bidders to bid to deliver one or multiple requirements. This contract also allows for subcontracting or a partnership to be formed.

**CONTRACT & CONTRACT DURATION**

Contract starting 1st October - 30th November 2024.

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* Section 3: Supporting information

## Section A: Organisation and Contact Details

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| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| Name of your organisation |  |
| Trading address (if different from office) |  |
| What if any local connections do you have with the authority? |  |
| Name of person whom an queries relating to this questionnaire should be addressed |  |
| Email |  |

## Section B: Questions

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| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| Have you offer similar solution/service to other Local Authorities or other public bodies(if you have case studies please attach) |  |
| Given the information provided, and if you were to bid, what other information would you need to be able to provide a suitable and sufficient bid? |  |
| Given the information provided, do you believe our approach to allow for separate bids for the requirements within one RFQ is appropriate? |  |
| Or given the information provided, do you believe each requirement should be separate RFQ? |  |
| If you feel this the above is not appropriate way to offer this opportunity, how would you prefer this was offered? |  |
| Do you feel the timescale for delivering the programme is suitable and reasonable? |  |
| We are looking to have this opportunity out to tender for 1 month, do you think this is a reasonable timescale for the type of service we are looking for? |  |
| Given what you have read, would you consider submitting a response? |  |
| What would be the reason you would not choose to submit a bid? |  |
| If you wish to provide other information or comments you feel would benefit our procurement please use this space. |  |