

**Request for Quotation**

**NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY 2025-2030**

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# Section 1: Introduction

## General Requirements

1. North Northamptonshire Council (hereafter referred to as “The Council”) invites quotations for the provision of a Local Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030. This will outline the Council’s approach to supporting economic growth locally covering direct action and delivery, policy setting, commissioning, enabling, collaboration, and other activities.
   1. The Council’s detailed requirements are defined in Section 2: Specification.
   2. Please take care in reading this document, in particular the Specification. In the event of any questions or queries in relation to this Request for Quotation (RFQ), please contact the Officer detailed in Table B.
   3. The Council reserves the right to:
      1. carry out due diligence checks on the awarded Potential Supplier;
      2. amend the Conditions of Contract included at Appendix 1;
      3. abandon the procurement process at any stage without any liability to the Council; and/or
      4. require the Potential Supplier to clarify its quotation in writing and if the Potential Supplier fails to respond satisfactorily, this may result in the Potential Supplier being rejected from the process.
   4. The Council also reserves the right, at any point and without notice, to discontinue the procurement process without awarding a contract, whether such discontinuance is related to the content of Quotation Responses or otherwise. In such circumstances, the Council will not reimburse any expenses incurred by any person in the consideration of and/or response to this document. You make all quotations, proposals and submissions relating to this RFQ entirely at your own risk.
   5. All documents and materials, which comprise the RFQ response, must be written in English only.
   6. Quotations are to remain open for acceptance for a period of 90 days from the Deadline for Submission of Bids.
   7. Potential Suppliers must be explicit and comprehensive, keeping the information provided specific to and locate within the question asked as this will be the single source of information on which responses will be scored and ranked.
   8. Rights of the Council in Relation to the RFQ
   9. The Council reserves the right to:
      1. Waive or change the requirements of this RFQ at any time during the procurement process without prior (or any) notice being given by the Council;
      2. Make changes to the timetable, structure or content of this RFQ or any other documents associated with this procurement process. Any such changes will be in accordance with the procurement timetable;
      3. Abandon the procurement process at any stage without any liability to the Council, or to re-invite responses on the same or any alternative basis;
      4. Choose not to award any contract as a result of this procurement process; and/or
      5. Reject any RFQ Responses that are over budget without further evaluation of the response.
   10. Answer fully all relevant questions and respond in accordance with any specific requests as detailed in the question e.g., maximum word/page limits, etc.
   11. All words in any format (including but not limited to words in diagrams, pictures, maps, tables and charts) will count towards the word count. Potential Suppliers must state the number of words in any diagram, picture, map, table or chart directly underneath it. This includes any other method of presentation which is not just text. Potential Suppliers must not attempt to circumnavigate the word limit e.g., by joining up words or using special characters to join words. Words submitted over this limit will not be evaluated.
   12. Submit any attachments requested in an acceptable format to the Council which includes MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint, JPEGs and PDF files or any file format as specified in the question. Potential Suppliers who wish to submit an attachment in an alternative format must first check with the Council that it will be accepted.
   13. When uploading attachments, please state the question number only in the file title.
   14. Submit any zipped files in WinZip format only.

## Procurement Timetable

* 1. This RFQ follows a clear, structured and transparent process to ensure a fair and level playing field is maintained at all times, and that all Potential Suppliers are treated equally.
  2. All documents, which comprise any RFQ Response, must be received by the Council no later than the Deadline for Submission of Bids, set out in Table A, below.
  3. The RFQ process is intended to follow the timetable set out in Table A, below.

**Table A**

| Activity | | Time and Date  (as applicable) |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Request for Quotation Documents issued | Friday, 23rd August 2024 |
|  | Deadline for Questions from Potential Suppliers | 12:00 on 6 September 2024 |
|  | Deadline to Provide Answers to Questions from Potential Suppliers | Wednesday, 11th September 2024 |
|  | Deadline for Submission of Bids | 8am on Monday, 30th September 2024 |
|  | Evaluation of Bids Received\* | Tuesday, 1st October 2024 |
|  | Contract Award\* | Wednesday, 2nd October 2024 |
|  | Contract Start\* | Wednesday, 2nd October 2024 |
|  | Contract End | Friday, 14th March 2025 |

2.4 The Council reserves the right to amend this timetable, and items marked with an asterisk, i.e. \*, are provided for guidance only and are subject to change at short notice.

2.5 Any RFQ received after the Deadline for Submission of Bids identified in Table A, may be rejected. Therefore, it is the Potential Supplier’s responsibility to ensure that the deadline is not breached.

## 3. Clarification Questions

3.1 Any queries about this document, the procurement process, or the proposed contract itself, should be referred via e-mail to the Officer detailed in Table B, below, no later than the Deadline for Questions from Potential Suppliers date found in Table A.

3.2 A copy of all requests for clarifications and the responses will be sent to all potential suppliers on request, where the clarification and response are not considered confidential.

3.3 If a potential supplier wishes the Council to treat a clarification as confidential and therefore not publish the response to all, it must state this when submitting the clarification. If in the opinion of the Council, the clarification is not confidential, the Council will publish in an anonymised format.

3.4 The deadline for receipt of clarifications relating to this procurement is set out in the procurement timetable. Clarifications sent to the Council after this deadline may not be responded to.

**Table B**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Greg Ward |
| Job Title | Principal Regeneration Officer |
| E-Mail address | [greg.ward@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:greg.ward@northnorthants.gov.uk) |

## 4. Quotation Responses

4.1 Should you wish to take part in the selection process please complete this RFQ and return via the e-mail detailed in Table C, below, no later than the Deadline for Submission of Bids date in Table A.

**Table C**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| E-Mail address | [nnbusinesssupport@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:nnbusinesssupport@northnorthants.gov.uk) |

## 5. Evaluation of Quotations

5.1 THOSE POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS WHO FAIL ANY PASS/FAIL, MANDATORY, COMPULSORY AND/OR ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS WILL be REJECTED FROM THE RFQ PROCESS.

5.2 Any bids which are not compliant or not completed fully will be rejected. If a bid is eliminated for any reason, the price submitted within the quote concerned shall also be excluded from the evaluation. Based on the information provided by Potential Suppliers, each compliant RFQ Response will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

5.3 Potential Suppliers must pass all pass/fail questions in Section 3: to be considered. Bids not meeting the minimum standards will be rejected. Price will make up 40% of the evaluation.

## 6. Evaluation and Moderation of RfQ Responses

6.1 Each RfQ Response will be evaluated independently by an Evaluation Panel, which may include, but not be limited to, Council officers, members, technical advisors and/or stakeholders (such as members of user groups, focus groups and/or tenant/resident panels).

6.2 An initial examination may be made to establish the completeness of the RfQ Responses.

6.3 Moderation will then take place, considering the individual scores from the Evaluation Panel.

6.4 As the result of any moderation, the Evaluation Panel may choose to revise a Potential Supplier’s score for each response to a Scored Question, either up or down to reach a final score.

6.5 All responses to the Scored Questions will be assessed against the Criteria set out in Table D, below.

**Table D – Criteria for Awarding Score**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Criteria for Awarding Score** |
| 0 | Considered to be a **POOR response** on the basis that:   * No response is provided; or * It does not answer the question or is completely irrelevant. |
| 1 | Considered to be a **LIMITED response** on the basis that:   * Overall, it lacks sufficient detail or is perceived to be unclear, meaning that evaluators are not confident that the criteria will be delivered to an acceptable level. |
| 2 | Considered to be an **ACCEPTABLE response** on the basis that:   * It addresses most of the relevant criteria; and/or * The supporting detail is clear for the most part and provides evaluators with an understanding that the criteria it does address will be met to an acceptable level. |
| 3 | Considered to be a **GOOD response** on the basis that:   * It addresses all relevant criteria; and/or * The supporting detail is clear and provides evaluators with confidence that the criteria will be delivered to a good standard. |
| 4 | Considered to be an **OUTSTANDING response** on the basis that:   * It addresses all relevant criteria; and/or * The supporting detail is clear and robust and provides evaluators with the utmost confidence that all criteria will be delivered to the highest standard. |

6.6 An RfQ Response may be rejected, where the response to any Scored Question fails to achieve a score of 2 or more (as defined in Table D), even if it scores relatively well against all other criteria. This is because the Council requires a minimum quality threshold to ensure an overly low price does not skew an RfQ Response where the quality is fundamentally unacceptable.

6.7 Should the Evaluation Panel, in its reasonable judgement, identify a fundamental failing or weakness in any RfQ Response then that RfQ Response may, regardless of its other merits, be excluded from further consideration.

6.8 For the avoidance of doubt, there are no sub-criteria elements in the Scored Questions, which will be scored. The score allocated will be against the total answer submitted and factored against the maximum percentage awarded for that question in accordance with the calculation formula.

6.9 Where a particular question may list “elements”, Potential Suppliers are informed that no such individual element will be scored, per se; instead, the “elements” as listed are given for information only to assist Potential Suppliers to submit their most comprehensive Response and therefore their most competitive RfQ Response in all the circumstances.

6.10 The award criteria questions will be evaluated, using the scheme set out in Table E, below.

**Table E – Evaluation Criteria Questions and Weighting Scheme**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **SECTION HEADINGS** | **WEIGHTING**  **WITHIN TOTAL** |
| **QUALITY QUESTIONS (60%)** | | |
| **Provision of the Requirement (60%)** | | |
| 1 | Understanding of the programme requirements & approach | 20% |
| 2 | Experience of delivering similar commission | 20% |
| 3 | Team skills and experience | 10% |
| 4 | Project plan | 10% |
| **PRICING (40%)** | | |
|  | Total Cost | 40% |
|  | **Grand Total** | **100%** |

## 7. Evaluation of Price (Award Criteria Questionnaire)

7.1 Potential Suppliers should satisfy themselves of the accuracy of all fees, rates and prices quoted, since they will be required to hold these or withdraw their RfQ Response in the event of errors being identified after the Deadline for Submission of Bids, set out in Table A.

7.2 If a Potential Supplier fails to provide fully for the requirements of the RfQ it must either:

7.2.1 absorb the costs of meeting the Council’s full requirements within its RfQ price; or

7.2.2 withdraw its RfQ.

7.3 The following criteria will be applied to evaluate price:

7.3.1 Weighted Combination of Questions and Price

7.3.2 The Potential Supplier with the lowest overall compliant price will be awarded the full Price score, as set out in Table D. All other RfQ Responses will be scored in accordance with the following calculation:

7.3.3 An example is provided in Example 1, below. This example is based on a 60% price weighting where the lowest compliant price is £1,000,000.

**Example 1**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Potential Supplier No.** | **RfQ Price** | **Price Calculation** | **Price Score** |
|  | £1,000,000.00 | =60%  (lowest compliant price) | 60 |
|  | £1,100,000.00 | =60-((1,100,000-1,000,000)/1,100,000)\*100 | 50.91 |
|  | £5,000,000.00 | =60-((5,000,000-1,000,000)/5,000,000)\*100 | -20 |
|  | £1,300,000.00 | =60-((1,300,000-1,000,000)/1,300,000)\*100 | 36.92 |

7.4 If the Potential Supplier receives a minus score, following the Price Calculation provided in Example 1, the Council will amend the Potential Supplier’s Price Score to “0”, for the purposes of the Evaluation, so their Price Score does not adversely affect their overall Score.

## 8. Presentations and/or Clarifications

8.1 Where the Council believes there is an omission, ambiguity or inconsistency in a Potential Supplier’s RfQ Response (including an arithmetical error), the Council reserves the right (but is not obliged) to seek clarification of any aspect of a Potential Supplier’s RfQ Response during the evaluation phase where necessary for the purposes of carrying out a fair evaluation.

8.2 The Potential Supplier will be required to confirm any appropriate amendments to their RfQ Response.

8.3 Potential Suppliers are asked to respond to such requests promptly and within any given deadline. Potential Suppliers may be disqualified if they do not satisfactorily respond within the given deadline.

8.4 Once the submitted RfQ responses have been evaluated, the Council reserves the right to conduct Presentation and/or Clarification meetings as part of the evaluation process with any number of Potential Suppliers, as the Council deems necessary, to complete a full evaluation of the RfQ Responses submitted.

8.5 The Council may clarify elements of Potential Suppliers' submissions and reserves the right to:

8.5.1 re-visit the evaluation scoring; and

8.5.2 ask further clarification questions.

## Abnormally Low and/or Unsustainably High RfQ Responses

9.1 RfQ Responses will be reviewed to consider if they appear to be abnormally low or unsustainably high in cost. An initial assessment will be undertaken using a comparative analysis of the price proposal received from all Potential Suppliers.

9.2 The Council reserves the right to reject any unsustainably high RfQ Responses without further evaluation of the bid submission.

9.3 If the assessment shows that a Potential Supplier’s price offer may be abnormally low, the Council will request from a written explanation and/or evidence of the Potential Supplier’s price offer and/or RfQ Response, or of those parts of a Potential Supplier’s price offer and/or RfQ Response, which the Council considers contribute to the RfQ Response being abnormally low, to justify the RfQ Response and its price and/or value(s) offered.

9.4 On receipt of a Potential Supplier’s written explanation, the Council will verify the price offer, RfQ Response or parts of the RfQ Response.

9.5 If the Council is still of the opinion that the Potential Supplier has submitted an abnormally low offer, the Council will confirm this to the Potential Supplier and will advise either:

9.5.1 that the Potential Supplier’s RfQ Response has been rejected; or

9.5.2 that, for RfQ evaluation purposes, the Council will make an adjustment to the price proposal to take account of any consequences of accepting an abnormally low RfQ Response.

9.6 Where the Potential Supplier is unable to prove, within a sufficient time limit, such justification for the low price and/or value, the Council reserve the right to reject the RfQ Response.

## Rejection and Disqualification of RfQs

10.1 The Council reserves the right to reject or disqualify any RfQ Response and or a Potential Supplier, where the Potential Supplier:

* + - Fails to submit their RfQ Response by the Deadline for Submission of Bids, set out in the procurement timetable at Table A;
    - contains gaps, omissions, misrepresentations, errors, uncompleted sections, or changes to the format of the RfQ provided;
    - contains handwritten amendments which have not been initialled by the authorised signatory;
    - does not reflect and confirm full and unconditional compliance with all of the documents issued by the Council forming part of this RfQ;
    - contains any caveats or any other statements or assumptions qualifying the RfQ Response that are not capable of evaluation in accordance with the Council’s published evaluation model or requiring changes to any documents issued by the Council in any way;
    - contains any alterations or additions to any documents issued by the Council forming part of this RfQ;
    - cannot commit to achieve any Key Dates for elements and/or milestones etc. as set out in the Council’s Specification;
    - is not submitted in a manner consistent with the provisions set out in this RfQ;
    - fixes or adjusts the amount of its RfQ Response by or in accordance with any Conditions of Contract or arrangement with any other party;
    - communicates to any party other than the Council or, as applicable, relevant participating body, the amount or approximate amount of its proposed RfQ Response or information which would enable the amount or approximate amount to be calculated (except where such disclosure is made in confidence, to obtain quotations necessary for the preparation of a complete and accurate RfQ Response or insurance or any necessary security);
    - enters into any Condition of Contract or arrangement with any other party that such other party shall refrain from submitting an RfQ Response or shall limit or restrict the prices to be shown by any other Potential Supplier in its RfQ Response;
    - offers or agrees to pay or gives or does pay or gives any sum or sums of money, inducement or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any party for doing or having done or causing or having caused to be done in relation to its RfQ Response or any other proposed RfQ Response;
    - commits an offence under the Bribery Act 2010 or an offence under Section 117(2) of the Local Government Act 1972;
    - directly or indirectly canvasses any officer, member, employee, or agent of the Council or its members or any relevant participating body or any of its officers or members concerning the establishment of the contractual relationship or who directly or indirectly obtains or attempts to obtain information from any such officer, member, employee or agent or concerning any other Potential Supplier, RfQ Response or proposed RfQ Response;
    - fails to declare any conflict of interest or any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest (Potential Suppliers must notify the Council via e-mail);
    - fails to comply fully with the requirements of this RfQ or makes a misrepresentation in any information supplied in their RfQ Response;
    - there is a change in identity, control, financial standing or other factor impacting on the selection and or evaluation process affecting the RfQ Response;
    - submits an RfQ Response which does not comply with any mandatory requirement (where the word “shall” or “must” is used); or fails to comply with the Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales; para. 45 "publicly-owned venues and resources do not provide a platform for extremists to disseminate extremist views"; para 46 "organisations who work with the local authority on Prevent are not engaged in any extremist activity or espouse extremist views"; or contradict para 47 "new contracts for the delivery of their services are being made to ensure that the principles of the duty are written into those contracts in a suitable form";
    - Is submitted by any Potential Supplier (for the purposes of this paragraph, this also includes any company who has control of the legal entity submitting the RfQ Response or a member of the group, if submitting as a group of economic operators) who has longstanding unpaid debts of any value with the Council, which have not been disputed by the Potential Supplier and/or where no payment plan has been agreed with the Council within one-hundred and twenty (120) days of the date the invoice was due to be paid. For the avoidance of doubt, longstanding in this instance, is defined as equal to or greater than one-hundred and twenty (120) days;
    - Fails to declare their organisation or any other person has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation;
    - Has been involved in any situation or activity which, in the reasonable opinion of the Council, may have a negative impact on the reputation of the Council or may bring the Council or any element of its business into disrepute; and/or
    - Submits an RfQ Response that is in any other way deemed non-compliant by the Council.

10.2 By participating in this procurement process, Potential Suppliers accept that the Council shall have no liability to a rejected or disqualified RfQ Response and/or Potential Supplier in these circumstances.

# Section 2: Specification

## Introduction and Background

* 1. North Northamptonshire Council is a Unitary Council in the East Midlands serving a population of more than 350,000 people, across the towns of Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough, Rushden, Higham Ferrers, Raunds, Desborough, Rothwell, Burton Latimer, Irthlingborough, Thrapston, Oundle and the surrounding area.
  2. The Council was created in April 2021, when the local District and Borough Councils and County Council were amalgamated, forming two Unitary councils in Northamptonshire.
  3. The Council adopted a Corporate Plan in 2021, with a vision for North Northamptonshire as *‘a place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life’*. The plan outlines six key commitments:

1. Active, fulfilled lives: We will help people live healthier, more active, independent and fulfilled lives.
2. Better, brighter futures: We will care for our young people, providing them with a high-quality education and opportunities to help them flourish.
3. Safe and thriving places: We will enable a thriving and successful economy that shapes great places to live, learn, work and visit.
4. Green, sustainable environment: We will take a lead on improving the green environment, making the area more sustainable for generations to come.
5. Connected communities: We will ensure our communities are connected with one another, so they are able to shape their lives and the areas where they live.
6. Modern public services: We will provide efficient, effective and affordable services that make a real difference to all our local communities.
   1. The Corporate Plan can be found at: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/corporate-plan>
   2. North Northamptonshire Council has been successful in a bid to the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

1.6 A key objective of this Fund is ‘Supporting Local Business’ across a range of interventions from E16-E32. The strategy should consider and reflect on the interventions delivered by the Council to support this objective, and within the other two themes of ‘Communities and Place’ and ‘People and Skills’. More information available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-england>

## Scope

* 1. This specification sets out the different elements required through the commission to produce the North Northamptonshire Local Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030.
  2. The aims of this commission are to outline the Council’s approach to supporting economic growth locally covering direct action and delivery, policy setting, commissioning, enabling, collaboration, and other activities.
  3. The commission should also recommend, as a separate Appendix to the strategy, what additional powers and funding the Council should be seeking from Government through devolution; and why, and how these could support delivery of the strategy.
  4. The work will be based on the guiding principles of:
* **Greener** – through supporting the transition to net-zero and a greener economy
* **Stronger** – through supporting high and sustainable levels of productivity, innovation, and business growth, with newer and successful independent businesses and social enterprises, and world leading companies that benefit from their location here and contribute to the shared vision and net zero and fairer aspirations
* **Fairer** – through supporting all communities to play an active part in the economy and society and to benefit from it through good well-paid jobs and high levels of skills and employment
  1. The Strategy should reflect the 3 key pillars (not exclusive or prioritised) of:
* **People** – skills and upskilling (including focus on digital and green skills), career pathways, inclusion, youth aspiration, education, and health & well-being
* **Place** – placemaking and regeneration (including targeting ‘deprived areas’), highlight areas (including strategic opportunities) for future inward investment as part of a broader approach for the area, infrastructure, connectivity and access to job opportunities, sustainable food and agriculture, retrofit, energy, housing, transport, and natural capital
* **Enterprise** – start-up and social enterprise support, inward investment, innovation, productivity, key sectors with growth potential, local supply chains, good employment and business best practice, decarbonisation, and planned and reactive support for established businesses (over 12 months).

* 1. The commission should also align with the Council’s BIG 50 Agenda and its initial 3 key priorities of:
  + **Proud place** - A place with clear goals and a plan of how to get there, where people feel inspired and safe.
  + **Prosperous place** - A place full of thriving businesses and a skilled population who can achieve their ambitions.
  + **Proactive place** - A place which understands the issues its people face and how to address them early, so everyone can live the best life.
  1. The work should also reference and align to any policies and strategies from the UK Government along with any emerging priorities, especially proposals relating to devolution.
  2. The commission will run until 14th March 2025. At the end of the commission any assets should be transferred to the council unless it agrees otherwise.

## Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

* 1. At least ten (10) Working Days prior to the Contract Start Date, the Supplier shall prepare and deliver to the Council, for approval, a plan detailing the processes and arrangements that the Supplier shall follow to:
* ensure continuity of the business processes and operations supported by the Service, following any failure or disruption of any element of the Service; and
* the recovery of the Service in the event of a disaster.
  1. In the event of a complete loss of service, or in the event of a disaster, the Supplier shall immediately implement the Service Continuity Plan (and shall inform the Council promptly of this).

## 

## Statement of Requirements

* 1. The Supplier must provide the following:

North Northamptonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030

* 1. The North Northamptonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030should have a time horizon that looks towards 2050 but priorities and actions should focus on the period to 2030. The target audience will be local stakeholders (inc. businesses, voluntary and community sector, councils, wider public sector, other interest groups), potential investors, and government.
  2. Words and principles should be translated into tangible actions. This means setting clear and deliverable priorities that are evidence-based, command support and which make a real difference to achieving a greener, stronger, and fairer economy. Action should be tailored to our diverse places, including towns, rural areas, and industrial centres such as Corby. The work should capitalise on a strong culture of partnership across organisations in the public, private, and voluntary and community sectors in the area.

4.4 The strategy should include well designed, high quality and long-term approaches and solutions that stand the test of time and enable us to withstand and bounce back from challenges.

4.5 The strategy should aim high, seek to seize opportunities, and rise to challenges quickly, and target world class in key areas where our assets and vision align. A flexible and entrepreneurial approach should help us learn from experience, look ahead, and adapt and respond quickly when needed. Through integrating with health, well-being and environmental plans and goals, the strategy should make creative links across issues and opportunities and forge shared solutions.

4.6 This connected theme also includes looking beyond the administrative boundaries of North Northants in all directions.

4.7 A wealth of local data is available via Local Insights (version 2.0). The commission will include an assessment looking at this data and other factors through a SWOT or other analysis tool.

4.8 The strategy should identify assets and challenges, highlight existing activities, and set out aims, priorities and further opportunities for each of these three pillars (People, Place, and Enterprise). This should include KPIs and other metrics of success.

4.9 The commission includes local stakeholder engagement, and consultation on a draft strategy (minimum of four weeks) via the council’s consultation platform.

4.10 Whilst the Council can play a lead role in developing, convening, and supporting delivery, it cannot lead and deliver a greener, stronger, fairer economy on its own. Moving forward, partnership arrangements will need to be formalised for the continuing development and delivery of the work. This will not be part of the commission, but the work will help to inform the scope and focus of the new arrangements. These should ensure appropriate governance and accountability arrangements are in place to co-ordinate, prioritise and resource the actions and activities.

Strategic Support

4.11 Funding of up to £60,000 is available to deliver this commission.

4.12 NNC will be able to supply for the successful consultants:

* Officer contact for day-to-day matters
* List of internal contacts and key documents relevant to the commission, this will link with work on the Local Plan, Housing Strategy and other activities
* List of local stakeholders for initial engagement, list not exhaustive and consultants may want to broaden
* Details of the interventions supported through the UKSPF in the area and their impact, including an Investment Prospectus
* Access to data sourced through Local Insights
* Access to the Councils portal for undertaking consultation on the draft Strategy

4.13 The contract will run to 14th March 2025.

4.14 The supplier must ensure that all material and activities are branded as a North Northamptonshire Council initiative. (Brand guidelines will be shared with the Supplier)

## Performance Monitoring and Review

5.1 Monthly reporting meetings will take place between the Council and the Supplier (either face to face or virtually - to be agreed), at which the progress will be discussed.

5.2 For the duration of the contract, the supplier will be paid in instalments, subject to meeting the below criteria, and on submission of a fully evidenced monitoring and claim form.

5.3 For the reporting meetings, the Supplier must share an update report on the following items:

5.3.1 Progress with the North Northamptonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030

5.3.2 Any issues which will impact on delivery

5.3.3 Stakeholder events or consultations planned / delivered

5.3.4 Next steps

5.3.5 Publicity

5.4 Deliverables

1. Preparation of a draft North Northamptonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030, for consultation, including questions
2. Presentation of the draft Strategy to up to three meetings (one in person)
3. Preparation of a final North Northamptonshire Economic Growth Strategy 2025-2030, including a report of consultation with analysis of comments and rationale for any amendments

5.5 Documents should be designed in accessible web and digital format with print version option. Maximum strategy document size 60 pages (not including Appendices) to include images, diagrams, and maps (in full colour where appropriate) with an Executive Summary.

## 6. Social Benefits

6.1 The Supplier must ensure, as much as possible, that the programme employs local staff and seeks to grow and strengthen local networks whether existing business networks, or the creation of new networks and groups.

6.2 This may be achieved through the growth and/or creation of local supply routes.

6.3 The Supplier must be considerate of the environmental impact of the service and aim to minimise greenhouse emissions through travel, energy consumption and promote environmental and social awareness to participants by modelling this through its operational model.

6.4 The Supplier must demonstrate that they are aware of personal wellbeing and Mental Health with the ability to guide clients towards further support. The Supplier must be affirming of Equality and Diversity, both in promoting access to the programme and supporting clients through the programme.

## 

## 7 Data Management / UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

7.1 The Potential Supplier shall comply with any further written instructions with respect to processing by the Council.

7.2 Any such further instructions shall be incorporated into the Schedule at Table F, below.

**Table F – Schedule of Processing for Data Subjects**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Details** |
| Identity of the Controller and Processor | The Parties acknowledge that for the purposes of the Data Protection Legislation, each Party shall act as a Data Controller in respect of the Processing of Personal Data on its own behalf and in particular each shall be a Data Controller of the Personal Data acting individually and in common |
| Subject matter of the processing | The processing is needed to ensure that the Processor can effectively deliver the contract to provide a service to the Council’s customers. The subject matter may include Personal Data relating to recipients of the Services or in respect of any matter on which the Services are being sought or which is otherwise relevant to the provision of the Services. |
| Duration of the processing | The processing of Personal Data by the Supplier and Key Subcontractor will be carried out for the period during which the Services are required and any period during which the Supplier is required to maintain records in accordance with this Agreement and any regulatory and legal requirements |
| Nature and purposes of the processing | The processing of Personal Data will include the transmission of Personal Data relating to Data Subjects required in order for the Supplier to effectively provide the Services. It may involve being processed on systems of the Supplier for the purposes of delivering the Services.  The nature of the processing means any operation such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction of data (whether or not by automated means) in order to supply the Services. |
| Type of Personal Data being Processed | Personal Data may include special categories of Personal Data dependent on the Services being provided and the nature of the Personal Data required to be processed in order for the Services to be provided, including but not limited to, name, address, contacts details, telephone number and email address of the Data Subject |
| Categories of Data Subject | Personal Data may include special categories of Personal Data dependent on the Services being provided and the nature of the Personal Data required to be processed in order for the Services to be provided This will include customers of the service, and may include their key clients or suppliers. |
| Plan for return and destruction of the data once the processing is complete  UNLESS requirement under union or member state law to preserve that type of data | Any Personal Data of Data Subjects shall be retained by the Supplier only for as long as is necessary for the performance of the Services and/or in compliance with the management information retention provisions (if applicable) set out in this Agreement. All Personal Data shall be either destroyed or returned on termination of the Services unless longer retention is required by Law |

# Section 3: Supporting Information

1. Please complete Section 3 below.

| **General Information** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 1:** | | **Scoring Methodology:** | Question Answered? Yes/No | |
| 1.1. (a) | Full name of the Potential Supplier completing Information | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1. (b) (i) | Registered office address | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1 (b) (ii) | Registered website address | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1. (c) (i) | Trading Status | | | Choose an item. |
| 1.1. (c) (ii) | \*If you selected ‘**Other\***’, please specify | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1 (d) | Date of registration in country of origin | | | Click to enter date. |
| 1.1. (e) | Company registration number | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1. (f) | Charity registration number | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1 (g) | Head Officer DUNS number | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1 (h) | Registered VAT number | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1 (i) | Trading name(s) that will be used if successful in this procurement. | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1. (j) | Are you a Small, Medium or Micro Enterprise (SME)? | | | Choose an item. |
| 1.1 (k) | If applicable, details of immediate parent company | | | Click to enter text. |
| 1.1 (l) | If applicable, details of ultimate parent company | | | Click to enter text. |

**Please Note:** To avoid any unnecessary duplication for the Potential Supplier, by signing the Declaration at Question 2, you are also signing to confirm the following, as included in this RFQ Response, and all associated subsections therein contained:

1. Section 5: Freedom of Information; and
2. Section 6: Declaration.

| **Contact Details and Declaration** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 2:** | | **Scoring Methodology:** | Question Answered? Yes/No | |
| Potential Supplier contact details for enquiries about this RFQ Response | | | | |
| 2.1. (a) | Contact name | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (b) | Name of organisation | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (c) | Role in organisation | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (d) | Phone number | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (e) | E-mail address | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (f) | Postal address  including postcode | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (g) | Signature  electronic is acceptable | | | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (h) | Date | | | Click to enter date. |

| **Insurance** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 3:** | | **Scoring Methodology:** | Pass/Fail  Potential Suppliers who answer ‘No’ to any of the levels below will be eliminated from this procurement process. |  | |  |
| Please confirm that your organisation already has or is prepared to obtain the level of insurance cover prior to award of the contract? The levels of insurance cover are indicated below. | | | | | | |
| 3.1. | Employer’s (Compulsory) Liability Insurance at no less than £5m  It is a legal requirement that all Potential Suppliers hold Employer’s (Compulsory) Liability Insurance of £5 million as a minimum. Please note this requirement is not applicable to Sole Traders. | | | | Choose an item. | |
| 3.2. | Public Liability Insurance at no less than £5m | | | | Choose an item. | |
| 3.3. | Professional Indemnity Insurance at no less than £2m | | | | Choose an item. | |

| **Requirements under Modern Slavery Act 2015** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 4:** | | **Scoring Methodology:** | Pass/Fail  Potential Suppliers who answer ‘No’ will be eliminated from this procurement process. |  | |  |
| 4.1. (a) | The Council wants to ensure that within your business and its supply chain, there is no servitude or forced labour, slavery human trafficking, arranging or facilitating the travel of another person with a view that a person is being exploited or conducting any activities that contain violation of human rights.  Please confirm that your supply chain with regards to this quotation response complies with the Modern Slavery Act 2015? | | | | Choose an item. | |

| **UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR)** | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 5:** | | **Scoring Methodology:** | Pass/Fail  Potential Suppliers who answer ‘No’ will be eliminated from this procurement process. |  | |  |
| 5.1. | The Council wants to ensure that within your business and/or in its supply chain, the processing of personal data and processes in relation to this contract are complaint with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act.  Please confirm that you and your supply chain with regards to this RFQ response comply with all applicable data protection legislation including but not limited to the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act. | | | | Choose an item. | |

| **Social Value** | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 6:** | | **Scoring Methodology:** | Pass/Fail |  |  |
| 6.1. | Having read the specification what community benefits, will your organisation provide as part of your proposal? Examples include but not be limited to:   * Sub-contracting locally; * Improvements to the area covered by North Northamptonshire; and/or * Use of apprenticeships.   **Important Note:** Where the Potential Supplier answers in such a way, as to avoid this requirement, but still provides an answer (e.g., “we are unable to offer any benefits as a part of this Contract”), they will be deemed to have not answered the question, which may lead them failing this question and being rejected from the process. | | | | |
| **Answer:** | | | | | |
| Click to enter text. | | | | | |

| **Project specific questions** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 7:** | **Scoring Methodology:** | 20% | **Word Limit:** | 2,000 words |
| Please set out your understanding of the project requirements and outline your overall approach for delivering the project. | | | | |
| **Answer:** | | | | |
| Click to enter text. | | | | |
| **Word Count:** | | | | Enter no. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 8:** | **Scoring Methodology:** | 20% | **Word Limit:** | 1,000 words |
| Please demonstrate your experience of developing a similar strategy document. | | | | |
| **Answer:** | | | | |
| Click to enter text. | | | | |
| **Word Count:** | | | | Enter no. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 9:** | **Scoring Methodology:** | 10% | **Word Limit:** | 1,000 words |
| Please describe how the skills of your team will allow you to deliver the requirements of the specification    Please also define the management structure that you would put in place to support the successful performance of this contract, and state all the personnel who will be working on the programme, including a breakdown of the time each will be spending on this project. Please provide CVs to support your response (CVs are not included in the word count, but each CV should be no more than 4 pages). | | | | |
| **Answer:** | | | | |
| Click to enter text. | | | | |
| **Word Count:** | | | | Enter no. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question 10:** | **Scoring Methodology:** | 10% | **Word Limit:** | 500 words |
| Please provide a comprehensive project plan, in particular this should include project management of reporting requirements, meetings and sign-off | | | | |
| **Answer:** | | | | |
| Click to enter text. | | | | |
| **Word Count:** | | | | Enter no. |

# Section 4: Pricing Sheet

1. **Pricing and Costs**
   1. A Potential Supplier’s RFQ Response will be rejected if it exceeds the capped budget for this procurement exercise, which is up to £60,000.
   2. Please complete the Pricing Schedule at Table F, below, ensuring that you have provided a fixed and firm cost in each of the relevant boxes.

* 1. All prices quoted must exclude VAT.
  2. Should you be successful, your fixed cost for the contract must be included in your RFQ Response and any costs which are not included will not be met by the Council either before or during the contract.
  3. Where the Council considers a price to be abnormally low, it may seek clarification and/or an explanation from the Potential Supplier, and the Council may reject any RFQ Response, at its absolute discretion, if it appears to be unreliable.
  4. The Potential Supplier with the lowest overall compliant price will be awarded the full Price score. All other RFQ responses will be scored in accordance with the following calculation:
  5. An example is provided in Table **E**, below. This example is based on a 100% price weighting, where the lowest complaint price is £100,000.

**Table E**

| **Potential Supplier No.** | **Potential Supplier Price Offer** | **Price Calculation** | **Price Score** | **Rank** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Potential Supplier 1 | £100,000.00 | =100%  (lowest compliant price) | 100 | 1 |
| Potential Supplier 2 | £125,000.00 | =100-((125,000-100,000)/125,000)\*100 | 75 | 2 |
| Potential Supplier 3 | £150,000.00 | =100-((150,000-100,000)/150,000)\*100 | 50 | 3 |

**Table F**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PRICING SCHEDULE** | | |
|  |  | £​Click to enter text.​ |
|  |  | £​Click to enter text.​ |
|  |  | £​Click to enter text.​ |
|  |  | £​Click to enter text.​ |
|  |  | £​Click to enter text.​ |
|  | Additional Costs not otherwise specified | £​Click to enter text.​ |
|  | Total Cost (A+B+C+D+E+F)  This is the figure that will be used for the price evaluation, as detailed in this document. | £​Click to enter text.​ |

# Section 5: Freedom of Information

1. Information in relation to this RFQ may be made available on demand in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“The Act”) and your organisation details will be disclosed and/or published where the expenditure is over £500, as per the Government Transparency agenda.
2. Potential Suppliers must state if any of the information supplied by them is confidential and commercially sensitive or should not be disclosed in response for the Information under The Act. Potential Suppliers must state why they consider the information to be confidential or commercially sensitive.
3. Note that inclusion below will not guarantee that the information will not be disclosed but will be examined in the light of the exemptions provided in The Act. Note that the Declaration for this Section has been completed and signed at Section 3, Question 2.1 (g) of this document.

| **Information/Document** | | **Reference/Page No.** | **Reasons for Non-Disclosure** | **Duration of Confidentiality** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. |
|  | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. |
|  | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. |
|  | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. |
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|  | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. |
|  | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. | Click to enter text. |

# Section 6: Declaration

1. By signing Section 3, Question 2.1. (g) I hereby declare that:
   * + I am signing on behalf of the Company named at Section 3, Question 1.1 (a) and am duly authorised to do so;
     + to the best of my knowledge, the information provided is complete and accurate;
     + the price in Section 4 is our best offer;
     + no collusion with other organisations has taken place in order to fix the price;
     + that there is no conflict of interest in relation to the Council’s requirement;
     + the requirement be subjected to the terms and conditions set out in Conditions of Contract identified at Appendix 1;
     + that no goods, supplies, services and/or works will be delivered or undertaken until both parties have executed the formal contract documentation as identified at Appendix 1 and an instruction to proceed has been given by the Council in writing; and
     + I understand that the Council may reject my submission if there is a failure to answer all relevant questions fully or if I provide false and/or misleading information.

# Section 7: Due diligence

* 1. The Council will undertake its due diligence in advance of any contract award.
  2. The preferred Potential Supplier(s) will not be awarded the Contract until the Council is satisfied with any further checks and due diligence it has carried out and these will need to be acceptable to the Council before a contract can be awarded. The Council reserves the right to disqualify any Quotation Response which is incomplete.
  3. Due diligence may include credit checks in relation to the preferred Potential Supplier(s) (including each member of any consortium and of any key sub-contractor). This is important to the Council to ensure that any organisation who wishes to enter into a contract with the Council will be in a position to provide the goods, services and/or works on an ongoing basis as agreed within any contract. The Council works with external credit agencies to provide these financial checks.
  4. The Council reserves the right to reject a Potential Supplier from the procurement process, where any findings from the Council’s due diligence reveal a serious concern or risk for the Council that cannot be remedied in a reasonable amount of time before award. Potential Suppliers are strongly encouraged to check and manage their financial score within the industry.
  5. The Council reserves the right to revisit any selection criteria questions at any time before award stage, where the Council believes there is a risk that selection responses might have changed. The Council reserves the right to disqualify any Potential Supplier who no longer meets the selection criteria if it originally led to them continuing in the procurement process.

# 

# Section 8: CONTRACT AWARD

* 1. The Council will notify any Potential Supplier who no longer meets the selection criteria if it originally led to them continuing in the procurement process.
  2. This will include details of the:
     + Award criteria scores;
     + Name of the successful provider(s).
  3. The following documents shall form part of the contract between the Council and the successful provider(s):
     + Specification;
     + Terms and Conditions plus related Schedules (such as service levels, site plans, asset lists, contracts list, list of transferring employees, relevant policies, etc.);
     + A pricing schedule (as completed by the Potential Supplier);
     + Responses to requirements; and
     + A list of commercially sensitive information.

## Appendix 1: Conditions of Contract