

Digital DRT Market Engagement

DN614075

This request for expressions of interest is issued solely for the purpose of conducting market engagement and does not constitute any commitment by the Authority to undertake any procurement exercise in the future. This exercise includes no element of supplier evaluation. No parties will be prejudiced by any response or failure to respond to this by the deadline, there is no commitment of any kind involved on either side. This request does not constitute a call for competition to procure any services and the Authority is not bound by any proposal offered.

If you are interested in this potential opportunity, then please express an interest by 12:00 noon on 24 June 2022 via our e-tendering portal ProContract

<https://www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk/>

NB - ensure you provide responses to the requirements listed in the table below.

Background

In response to the National Bus Strategy launched by the government in March 2021, Somerset County Council (SCC) submitted a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) which included a proposal to trial Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) in the County.

SCC has been awarded indicative funding to progress an element of the proposals submitted initially and a further refined set of proposals has been submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for further consideration.

Subject to final confirmation of the funding SCC would like to trial Digital DRT, particularly acting as a feeder service into a designated mobility hub.

Our requirement

Subject to confirmation from the DfT, of the funding allocation required, we would be seeking a supplier who could provide us with the following requirements:

- A feasibility study to determine the viability of the location chosen for the feeder service and demand modelling of anticipated patronage
- Advice and guidance on implementing a DDRT service
- The back-office technology/system to support a DDRT service
- The ability to take advance and real-time bookings on-line/through the app
- Provision of a journey planning function to enable the management of the bookings and to automate service scheduling
- The ability to facilitate payments either through the website or smart phone app etc

- Advice on the hardware required to deliver a DDRT service
- On-going support with the system should any issues arise
- The ability to expand the service further if it proves successful e.g., to other locations within the County or expanding operating hours/no. of vehicles
- System status, fault monitoring and reporting facilities
- Real-time passenger tracking of their service
- Somerset County Council requires a SaaS solution, hosted and fully managed by the Supplier.

We would be keen to receive demonstrations from any perspective suppliers to help us understand the options available to us.

Should we choose to pursue the delivery of DDRT, we would be looking to procure the relevant system to deliver the service in the Autumn 2022.

Please complete and return the attached form ('Digital DRT Market Engagement Return') to express an interest.

Thank you.