**Meet the Buyers (Supplier Engagement day) Invitation**

**Future Tender Opportunity Description**

**Luton Council is seeking feedback from suppliers that are able to provide the following service (extract from specification)**

The Council through its Open Tender PCR15 compliant approach is looking to engage qualified organisations to bid for its conservation grass cutting and collection services for specified Conservation Areas within the Borough of Luton. This is potentially a 4 year term contract. You should note that some of the Conservation Areas are inaccessible to large machinery and are also covered by Stewardship Agreements and National Classification. Standards that require the protection of flora and fauna which must be taken into account when undertaking this operation. You will be required to recycle all arising’s as a result of the cutting in a process which will need to be approved by the Council. Please also note that the contract has a total of 35 individual contract areas, and we may award each site individually to different bidders or reserve the right not to award at all.

Luton’s greenspaces contribute to delivering the councils 2040 vision for the town. It is acknowledged that well-maintained parks attract people, business and investment to the town. They are socially inclusive spaces providing free access to opportunities for recreation, mental relaxation and just maintaining health and well-being through being in the great outdoors. The town’s greenspaces also contribute to the climate change agenda providing eco-system services to benefit the community. These range from large expanses of grassland that accommodate surface water run-off to trees and shrubs that capture carbon and remove pollutants from the air that we breathe. Service Plan priorities for the Parks and Countryside Service include priorities relating to increasing tree cover, increasing biodiversity through improvements to Chalk Grassland and habitats alongside improvements to District and Neighbourhood parks and other areas of greenspace to meet the needs of the community. Luton Parks & Countryside core objectives:

The Parks & Countryside Service is committed to creating and maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment within the parks, facilities and open space provision in Luton, and to improving both the quality of the environment, the recreational amenities and the enhancement of the lives of those who live and work within the Borough. Achieve a substantial reduction in its carbon footprint contributing towards the Council 2040 vision to be carbon neutral Support the Council’s Buy Local and Social value policies – Social , economic and environmental Bidders need to be aware that the council will be looking for social value commitments and these will be over and above the contract itself.

**CPV Codes applicable**

* 77314000-4 - Grounds Maintenance services
* 70332100 - Grass and hedge cutting on open roads

Indicators

* Contract is suitable for SMEs.
* Contract is suitable for VCOs.

**Other Information**

**A Supplier Engagement Day (via Teams Meeting) will be held at 2.00pm on Friday 19th April 2024 on-line (or at an address to be advised) and will aim to achieve the following objectives:**

1 - Understand supplier competency, capacity, operations and sector experience

 2 - Understand pricing mechanisms and how to secure best value

3 - Gauge market interest and understand potential barriers to bidding

4 – Obtain Feedback as to barriers for a successful tender

5 – Obtain feedback that will help the Council create a better specification

This is an opportunity for suppliers to have their say and offer feedback, to help inform the development of the requirements.

Suppliers are encouraged to email sample pricing as part of this market testing.

**Please RSVP by expressing an interest via the due north portal , providing your contact details and e mail address, we will then create a list of interested providers, and arrange a Teams Meeting Invitation on the afternoon before the engagement day.**

Alternatively, the Procurement Manager’s e mail address: Christopher.newman@luton.gov.uk as to any clarifications. For avoidance of doubt, attendance is not a prerequisite to apply for the tender.

Once the MTB has finished, and soon after , we will issue our tender via the Due North Portal. The tender will be conducted in accordance with an PCR15 Open Procedure. If you would like to contribute to this process but are unable to attend the Supplier Engagement Day, please contact Christopher Newman, Christopher.newman@luton.gov.uk who will send you a copy of the power point presentation / questionnaire after the event.

Please note that the final date and time for completed questionnaires and expression of interest in attending this event is Thursday 18th April 2024 at 2.00pm.

Luton Council is publishing this notice to facilitate early engagement with potential providers.

It relates only to pre-procurement market engagement in accordance with Regulation 40 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. It is not a Call for Competition.