

**ETE073**

**Geotechnical Works**

**Soft Market Testing Exercise**

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1. **Definitions and Abbreviations**

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| **Term**  | **Meaning**  |
| **Council**  | means Derbyshire County Council.  |
| **EIR**  | means the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3391) together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant government department in relation to such regulations.  |
| **FOIA**  | means the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and any subordinate legislation made under this act from time to time, together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant government department in relation to such regulations.  |
| **Government**  | means the government of the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.  |
| **SMT**  | Means a pre-procurement supplier engagement process of obtaining information from potential suppliers, to inform the council of the range of options available and help refine the business case, and procurement strategy, for its requirements. |
| **Social Value**  | means the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area (Derbyshire) as defined in the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.  |
| **Solution**  | means an organisation’s description of the goods and services it is referring to in its response. |

1. **Introduction**

The Council wishes to hear from companies willing to share their organisation information to help inform the Derbyshire County Council Geotechnical Works Framework 2021 – 2025 (DCCGWF). We are seeking to gauge the likely level of interest in the project from the market and gain a better understanding of the Solutions available, how they could be supplied and an indication of the likely costs. As such the Council is undertaking this SMT exercise to engage with suppliers and share information.

This exercise will be undertaken initially with interested suppliers through a written response.  The Council will then review the information provided and seek clarification if required.

All responses and submissions relating to this SMT exercise are made entirely at the interested supplier’s own risk and cost. The Council will not be liable for any costs, expenditure, losses, work or effort incurred by any organisation or third party participating in this exercise.

Information received from all parties will be treated as commercially confidential. Responses to this exercise are for information only and will not form part of any scored evaluation.

The SMT exercise in no way commits the Council to award any contract, nor does it constitute an offer (implied or otherwise) to enter into any contractual relationship.

If an organisation considers that any of the information included within its response is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, they should identify it specifically and explain the grounds for exemption from disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004; using the accompanying FOIA Disclosure Form (Appendix C) and submitting this with their response. The organisation should note that even where they have indicated that they consider the information to be commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, the Council may be required to disclose it under FOIA or EIR and the Council will be the final arbiter on such matters.

Where there is any indication that a conflict of interest exists or may arise then it shall be the responsibility of the organisation to inform the Council in writing.

For the avoidance of doubt, this soft market testing exercise is an exploratory exercise to determine feasibility and not a call for competition. It does not constitute any commitment by the Council to undertake a procurement exercise. Organisations are not prejudiced or disadvantaged by any response or failure to respond to this SMT exercise. Should the Council subsequently decide to undertake a procurement exercise, it will be carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Please note that a response to this SMT exercise does not guarantee an invitation to participate in any subsequent procurement.

1. **Instructions to Respond**

Written responses to the questions in Section 6 should be submitted through the Council’s electronic tendering system by **11.00am on Friday 10th September.**

The following documents are provided in this SMT exercise to assist you. Please ensure you have downloaded and read all of these before you respond:

* Soft Market Testing Exercise (This document)
* Appendix A - Example Service Requirements
* Appendix B - Derbyshire County Council Areas

The information provided by the Council should assist you in completing your response. Should you require any clarification relating to the information supplied or the process itself, please submit your questions through the messaging feature of the Council’s electronic tendering system by**11:00 on Tuesday 31st August.**

Any clarification questions that are of a sensitive nature must be clearly identified as such on submission. This will then be taken into account by the Council in deciding how to distribute the question and response. All questions will be considered by the Council, and where appropriate, responses shall be provided to all parties by **Monday on 6th September**. However, the final decision to answer any question shall be solely at the discretion of the Council.

The Council recognises that all prices quoted in response to this SMT exercise are indicative and not legally binding.  However, the Council would appreciate as much detail and accuracy as organisations feel able to provide, to enable the Council to determine the necessary budget requirements.  At a later date, should the Council seek to invite tenders, organisations choosing to submit a formal tender response will be expected to provide fixed and firm prices at that stage.

In the event of an emergency only, if you have any queries that cannot be submitted through the electronic tendering system, please contact:

Name: Maria Fowkes

Email: maria.fowkes@derbyshire.gov.uk

1. **Derbyshire County Council and the Service Overview**

The Derbyshire County Council Geotechnical Works Framework 2021 – 2025 (DCCGWF) will be designed to provide the County Council with the provision of site investigation services, technical geotechnical advice and associated specialist technical services in the fields of highways engineering, construction, property and transportation operations. Resources provided through the Framework will be used to support Derbyshire County Council’s key priorities:

* Resilient, healthy and safe communities
* High performing, value for money and resident focused services
* Effective early help for individuals and communities
* A prosperous and green Derbyshire

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) are responsible for maintaining the highways within the County of Derbyshire. Letting this contract will be the Structures Management Team, part of Network Planning within the Place Department at Derbyshire County Council.

The contract will cover work to the structures on the Derbyshire highway network that Derbyshire have a responsibility to maintain.  These include bridges, culverts, retaining walls, highway walls, public rights of way footbridges, landslips, rock faces, gantries, subways/underpasses and bridge chords. In addition to this, Derbyshire County Council has a duty of care to ensure that those bridges and structures maintained by third parties such as Network Rail, Highways England, the Environment Agency, Canal and River Trust, local landowners and businesses do not impact on the safety of the highway and work may be required in the vicinity of these structures if necessary.

The services will be required within the county boundaries of Derbyshire, not including the city of Derby. It should be noted that several structures within the highway are either designated monuments/historic structures or are located within a conservation area or world heritage site.  These statuses are an important part of the heritage of Derbyshire and it is vital that these assets and their locations are maintained in accordance with the associated guidance and relevant legislation.  These are important factors that require specific consideration when works are to be carried out.

The proposal for the DCCGWF is that a framework will be awarded for a maximum of four years (2+1+1) commencing in January 2022.

The proposal is for the DCCGWF to be split into three Lots;

* Lot 1 – Geotechnical Investigations
* Lot 2 – Geotechnical Site Works
* Lot 3 – Geotechnical Design and Build

This SMT is partly to identify if there is a requirement to further subdivide the Lots to enable bidders to provide the required services without the need for the subcontracting of works and also to gain further information that can assist in the compilation of the Framework documentation.

1. **Proposed Service Requirements**

The items listed within the Lots below are services that tendering parties must be able to provide. Tendering parties can bid for either or all Lots. Please see below the proposed Lot structure.

**Lot 1 – Geotechnical Investigations**

* Geotechnical site survey
* Boreholes
* Window samples
* Trial pits
* Geotechnical logs
* Materials testing

**Lot 2 – Geotechnical Site Works**

* Rope access
* Rockface scale and vegetation clearance
* Soil nailing / driven anchors
* Rock bolting and meshing
* Pattress plate installation (drilling and anchoring)
* Drilled drainage
* Repointing / Pressure Pointing
* Spray concrete
* Supply and installation of concrete “Lego” blocks
* Supply and installation of carriageway protection measures (plywood sheeting, hay bales, Heras fencing etc)
* Water entry (for the purpose of inspection or works)
* Confined space entry (for the purpose of inspection or works)
* Dewatering to enable works or inspections
* Rebuild of retaining walls in difficult access or as part of a Geotechnical scheme
* Provide emergency response to support the Council in responding to unplanned incidents
* Provision of information required from the Client in the form of a Construction Phase Plan in line with CDM Regulations 2015
* Principal Contractor and Contractor duties in line with CDM Regulations 2015

**Lot 3 – Geotechnical Design and Build**

* A desk study review or phase one report (including provision of commercial database searches e.g. Envirocheck Report)
* Pre-investigation site reconnaissance and liaison with formal agreement of site working practices
* Provision of geophysical survey information
* Preparation of draft information logs and test schedules for approval
* Provision of a Ground Investigation Report or a Ground Investigation Report and Geotechnical Design Report together with design advice for earthworks, foundations, pavements, ground stabilisation, soakaways
* Provision of contamination and remedial advice including consultation with regulatory authorities
* Provision of information required from the client for completion of pre-construction information in line with CDM regulations 2015
* Designer duties in line with CDM regulations 2015
* Other professional geotechnical advice and reviews
* All geotechnical site works service requirements as outlined above in Lot 1 Geotechnical Site Works
1. **Questions**

Please provide your responses to the following questions in the spaces provided. Please do not provide sales literature or brochures with your responses as these will be requested if required.

* 1. **Contact Details**

Please provide your contact details for enquiries about this questionnaire

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation Name: |  |
| Contact Name: |  |
| Postal Address: |  |
| Country: |  |
| Telephone Number: |  |
| Mobile Number: |  |
| Email Address: |  |

**6.2 Services Requirements**

**6.2.1**

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| Please indicate which Lots you would be interested in tendering for. |
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**6.2.2**

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| Is your company able to provide all the services in the Lot that you would tender for? Please indicate by completing the table(s) below (responding – Yes, No, Subcontract / outsource). This will help us to better understand if we need to further subdivide the Lots. Further subdivision of the Lots would not reduce the value of the work available to you, tendering for multiple lots is acceptable. Derbyshire County Council are committed to providing best value for money and therefore are looking to reduce the use of subcontractors. |
| Please respond by completing Tables 1, 2 and/or 3 in line with what you would tender for. |

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| **Table 1 – Lot 1 Geotechnical Investigations** | Yes (in house) | No | Sub-Contract / Outsource |
| Geotechnical Site Survey |  |  |  |
| Boreholes |  |  |  |
| Window samples |  |  |  |
| Trial pits |  |  |  |
| Geotechnical Logs |  |  |  |
| Materials testing |  |  |  |

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| **Table 2 – Lot 2 Geotechnical Site Works** | Yes (in house) | No | Sub-Contract / Outsource |
| Rope access   |  |  |  |
| Rockface scale and vegetation clearance  |  |  |  |
| Soil nailing / Driven anchors |  |  |  |
| Rock bolting and meshing |  |  |  |
| Pattress plate installation (drilling and anchoring) |  |  |  |
| Drilled drainage |  |  |  |
| Repointing / Pressure pointing |  |  |  |
| Spray concrete |  |  |  |
| Supply and installation of concrete “Lego” blocks |  |  |  |
| Supply and installation of carriageway protection measures (plywood sheeting, hay bales, Heras fencing etc) |  |  |  |
| Water entry (for the purpose of inspection or works) |  |  |  |
| Confined space entry (for the purpose of inspection or works) |  |  |  |
| Dewatering to enable works or inspections |  |  |  |
| Rebuild of retaining walls in difficult access or as part of a Geotechnical scheme |  |  |  |
| Provide emergency response to support the Council in responding to unplanned incidents |  |  |  |
| Provision of information required from the Client in the form of a Construction Phase Plan in line with CDM Regulations 2015 |  |  |  |
| Principal Contractor and Contractor duties in line with CDM Regulations 2015 |  |  |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table 3 – Lot 3 Geotechnical Design and Build** | Yes (in house) | No | Sub-Contract / Outsource |
| A desk study review or phase one report (including provision of commercial database searches) |  |  |  |
| Pre-investigation site reconnaissance and liaison with formal agreement of site working practices  |  |  |  |
| Provision of geophysical survey information   |  |  |  |
| Geotechnical site investigation   |  |  |  |
| Preparation of draft information logs and test schedules for approval  |  |  |  |
| Provision of a Ground Investigation Report or a Ground Investigation Report and Geotechnical Design Report together with design advice for earthworks, foundations, pavements, ground stabilisation, soakaways |  |  |  |
| Provision of contamination and remedial advice including consultation with regulatory authorities  |  |  |  |
| Provision of information required from the client for completion of pre-construction information in line with CDM regulations 2015 |  |  |  |
| Designer duties in line with CDM regulations 2015 |  |  |  |
| Other professional geotechnical advice and reviews |  |  |  |
| All geotechnical site works service requirements as outlined above in Lot 1 Geotechnical Site Works |  |  |  |

**6.2.3**

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| Would you consider forming a partnership with another company to bid for a Lot to ensure that you meet the service requirements? |
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**6.2.3**

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| Are there any additional services that your company provides that you feel should be included in the Services Requirements? |
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**6.3 Pricing**

**6.3.1**

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| The Framework contract documents will contain a schedule of rates for tendering companies to give prices for. Can you please provide an example of the items that you would expect to find within this schedule (including units of measurement) to aid us in drawing up a schedule. This will help us better understand current organisations pricing schedules. You do not have to provide prices for all items at this stage. |
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**6.3.2**

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| The Council needs to understand the costs of some elements of the works that will form part of the contract. The information that you provide, combined with data held from previous schemes will assist us in evaluating bids. Please provide indicative costs for the items listed below and where possible break these down to the individual components adding additional rows as necessary. * Soil Nailing
* Rock Bolting
* De-watering
* Site Investigation and Materials Testing
* Rock Face Scaling
* Design of small-scale slope stabilisation scheme by Soil Nailing

The council operates an open book pricing policy and a requirement of the contract, once awarded, will be to provide a breakdown of costs associated with the service requirements.  |
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**6.4 Geographic Coverage and Response Times**

**6.4.1**

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| Is your company able to provide the required services throughout the whole of Derbyshire as defined in Appendix B? We may further divide Lots into geographical areas if this enables Service Providers to operate effectively. Please keep your response to circa <250 words. |
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**6.4.2**

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| Derbyshire County Council may need assistance when dealing with emergency/unplanned issues that arise. We would appreciate feedback to help determine the response achievable. The response time may either constitute a member of your company visiting a site to identify any issues (normally in conjunction with the Client) or responding to an instruction from the Client to provide a required service. Please can you indicate the timescale that you consider to be achievable bearing in mind the different tasks that may arise in a variety of locations. Please keep your response to circa <250 words. |
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**6.4.3**

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| Please list any potential issues that you feel may cause you difficulties in achieving a reliable, emergency response within a fixed timeframe. Please keep your response to circa <500 words. |
|  |

**6.5 Commercial Requirements**

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| Please describe your approach to implementation to the examples in Appendix A relevant to the Lots you intend to tender for, including in your response:* Suggested timescales for delivery of information or services at key work stages
* Council resources required to support your response
* Risks to the delivery of the works.

This information may be used to form part of the scoring process when evaluating the bids. This information may also be used for identifying the Key Performance Indicators that will help us demonstrate the contract is operating to the desired standard.Please keep your response to circa <1000 words.  |
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**6.6 Insurance Requirements**

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| The Council needs to determine what insurance requirements will be necessary for this contract. Please provide details of the insurance levels that you currently have for the following:* Public Liability
* Product Liability
* Employer Liability
* Professional Indemnity

Please also explain the extent to which your organisation is able to accommodate increases to these insurance limits and any implications for doing so, should this be deemed necessary by the Council. |
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**6.7 Social Value**

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| The Council has developed a Social Value Procurement Framework, to support its commitment to ensuring Social Value benefits are achieved in any 3rd party contracts for goods and services. The framework can be accessed here:<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/Appendix%20B%20Draft%20Social%20Value%20Procurement%20Framework_tcm44-284411.pdf> Please describe what economic, environmental or social benefits you could provide in Derbyshire for this contract; include in your response any examples of how your organisation could incorporate Social Value into a contract and the methods adopted for measuring successful achievement. Please keep your response to circa <250 words. |
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1. **Additional Information**

With the exception of ‘for further clarification’ questions, Derbyshire County Council will not be making contact with any organisations who respond to this SMT and will not be able to provide feedback on submissions.

Responses to this document are required by **11.00am on Friday 10th September.** Following a review of the data, it is intended that the DCC Geotechnical Framework Contract will be inviting tenders from the beginning November 2021.

We would like to thank you for the time you have taken to respond to this document. All information supplied by you will be held confidentially and used solely for the purposes outlined.

**Appendix A – Example Service Requirements**

**Lot 1 Geotechnical Investigation - Example Service Requirements**

**Example 1 – Geotechnical Investigation of landslip**

Undertake borehole sampling and produce reports of a sloping greenfield site around a landslip effecting a road. Some boreholes will be within the carriageway, upslope and downslope of the failure.

**Lot 2 Geotechnical Site Works - Example Service Requirements**

**Example 1 - Retaining Wall Damaged by Single Tree Fall**

Emergency response required to deal with a large tree that has fallen into a two lane road in a rural national speed limit location, blocking one of the lanes. The site is located in DCC Area 3 (see Appendix B). Derbyshire County Council Emergency Response Team have been and removed the section of tree that was blocking the road and have provided temporary barriers around the damaged retaining wall allowing the road to be reopened. The tree has fallen from a steep bank above the carriageway that also has rocky outcrops and more vegetation. The two metre highway retaining wall below (which retains the upslope) which has been damaged needs to be rebuilt by others and the area will need to be ‘made safe’ for the work to be carried out. The remaining section of tree on the upslope will need cutting up and removing from site and the upslope making safe which will require rope access operatives to make an assessment of the remaining vegetation and remove (scale) any loose rock/stones in the immediate area (estimated at being 50 sqm) and dispose of any arisings. Traffic management and the wall rebuild will be arranged by the Client.

**Example 2 – Water Entry, Scour Assessment and Repairs**

In DCC area 5E, following a severe flood event, a single arch bridge has suffered severe scour to one of the corners of the abutments (approximately a 3m length). Following dissipation of the flood waters, dewatering of the abutment will be required to allow inspection and emergency scour repairs to be carried out as directed by the Client consisting of 2 cubic metres of concrete bag work and 2 cubic metre of poured concrete.

**Lot 3 Geotechnical Design & Build - Example Service Requirements**

**Example 1 - Collapsed Highway Retaining Wall – Soil Nailing and Meshing** A ten metre section of highway retaining wall (retaining below) has collapsed as a result of a localised land slip affecting the immediate area – this has occurred in DCC area 1D. The carriageway has been unaffected but the 1.8m wide footway will need partial reconstruction. Initial inspections have concluded that the bank will need stabilisation prior to rebuild of the retaining wall. A 15 metre by 15 metre area is to be soil nailed and meshed. 15m of highway retaining wall (mortared dry stone) will need to be reconstructed 2m high (1m retaining, 1m parapet). The Client will require a Design to be provided and, following agreement, the works to be carried out. Traffic management will be provided by the Client.

**Appendix B.**

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| **Derbyshire County Council Areas (1 to 5)** |
| 1A | Alfreton |
| 1B | Amber Valley West |
| 1C | Amber Valley East |
| 1D | Amber Valley South |
| 1E | Amber Valley Villages |
| 2A | Pleasley, Glapwell and Shirebrook |
| 2B | Bolsover and Clowne |
| 2C | North East Derbyshire |
| 2D | Dronfield |
| 2E | Clay Cross and Wingfield |
| 2F | Chesterfield East |
| 2G | Chesterfield South |
| 2H | Chesterfield West |
| 2I | Chesterfield Central and North |
| 3A | Glossop |
| 3B | Chapel, Whaley Bridge and New Mills |
| 3C | Hope Valley |
| 3D | Tideswell |
| 3E | Bakewell and Taddington |
| 3F | Buxton |
| 4A | Youlgreave, Monyash and Hartington |
| 4B | Duffield area |
| 4C | Matlock and East |
| 4D | Matlock and Wirksworth |
| 5A | Erewash West |
| 5B | Long Eaton / Ockbrook |
| 5C | Ilkeston |
| 5D | South Derbyshire (Southern Half) |
| 5E | Willington and Hatton |
| 5F | South Derbyshire (Northern Half) |