

Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW)

INVITATION TO TENDER

FOR

The Development of a Technical Feasibility and
investment model for the strategic implementation of
Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) within the Weaver Gowry
Catchment

Thursday 10th July 2025

ECW REF: WG2025

Return Date of ITT: Tuesday 5th August 2025, 09:00

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SECTION 1 – The ECW Profile

Cheshire and Warrington is one of the UK's economic success stories and the most productive economy in the North of England.

Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington (ECW), a council-owned organisation, works alongside elected leaders to make the region the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive, and growing place in the country.

We collaborate with the three local councils, industry leaders, and community partners to shape economic and transport strategies, deliver skills training and business support, and ensure that the voice of business is heard in local decision-making.

Through its Marketing Cheshire division, ECW also champions the region as an outstanding place to live, work, invest, study, and visit.

Working in collaboration with local government, businesses, educational institutes and other public, private and community sector organisations, we keep Cheshire and Warrington firmly on the map.

SECTION 2 – Scope of Procurement

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This procurement exercise is being conducted as a below threshold open tender. The tender documents comprise this ITT document, including associated appendices and the 'Water Means Business' report by Water Resources West.

Specification

ECW are looking to appoint a consultant(s) to work with ECW and partners across Cheshire to develop a feasibility study which will examine the strategic interventions within the Weaver-Gowy catchment for Nature Based Solutions (NbS) to deliver water availability and a range of co-benefits that can be brought from such nature-based solutions (e.g. carbon sequestration, water quality, biodiversity net gain), as well as the development of an investment model from a high-quality provider that delivers a service on behalf of ECW and partners.

The consultant(s) is expected to carry out consultation and engagement with key stakeholders including the abstractors themselves, Defra and other Government bodies, NGOs, Local Authorities among others, where appropriate. This consultation will inform the production of the study, focusing primarily on water abstracting businesses, as well as informing the investment model recommendation(s). The consultant(s) will, secondarily, consider other potential investors into the fund/scheme this could include, for example, angel capital investment, private capital via insurance companies, business rates, and philanthropic donations. This will include where these investments could be combined.

This ITT sets out the information which is required in order to assess the suitability of bidders in terms of their technical knowledge and expertise, quality assurance processes, relationship management and value for money to meet the requirements of ECW for the Development of a Technical Feasibility and investment model for the strategic implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) within the Weaver Gowy Catchment.

The successful bidder will be required to deliver services in accordance with all tender documents and the contract to be placed with the successful bidder. Tenderers are requested to study the specification in detail and ensure that the specified requirements can be met and thus your understanding of our requirements is reflected in your Pricing Schedule return.

The contract is expected to commence Tuesday 12th August with the exact dates to be agreed depending on the agreement between the successful provider and ECW.

The Contract will be awarded for approximately six months and the appointed consultant(s) will be assessed for satisfactory performance through continuous monitoring and performance review. In line with grant funding conditions, we expect the consultant(s) to produce an interim report before producing a draft report by December 2025, with an exact date to be confirmed by ECW.

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The basis of the contract will therefore include:

- A developed evidence base and feasibility study report which will identify strategic locations to implement NbS to improve water availability, whilst delivering co-benefits using assessment of different interventions and mapping exercises.
- The feasibility of creating an investable proposition to reduce water availability risks through nature-based solutions in the catchment
- The best delivery model and investment vehicle do this.

The report will need to include the following detailed work:

Feasibility study

- Undertaking a rapid literature review and conducting research to provide a baseline assessment of similar catchment-style approaches within the North West and a high-level assessment of the Weaver-Gowy catchment and its characteristics using the existing evidence base.
- Carry out primary and secondary stakeholder engagement including with farmers/landowners/NGOs within the catchment to build the evidence base and understanding of the challenges.
- Carry out stakeholder engagement with potential investors, focusing primarily on water abstraction businesses within the Weaver-Gowy catchment. Secondly, carry out stakeholder engagement with other potential investors e.g. angel capital investment, private capital via insurance companies, business rates, philanthropic donations, where appropriate and applicable.
- Carry out opportunity mapping using GIS tools to identify and assess strategic Nature-based Solutions (NbS) interventions across the Weaver-Gowy Catchment which improve water availability and water quality, for both current and future abstraction needs. (e.g. buffer strips, hedgerows, tree planting etc) to slow the flow and reduce soil run off and prevent silting, increasing water storage on land, and increasing the amount of water available during drier periods.
- Use the research conducted to estimate the likely water availability and co-benefits that can be brought from such nature-based solutions (e.g. carbon sequestration, water quality, biodiversity net gain).

Investment model

- Using the activities above, the consultant(s) will need to estimate the likely benefits and costs associated in terms of risk reduction for abstractors (e.g. in terms of abstracted volume protected).
- To produce the investment model, the consultant(s) will need to identify a model that enables potential sources of private funding which can be added alongside

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existing funding sources for the proposed solutions (e.g. ELMS, Water Quality, Carbon Credits and Natural flood management/biodiversity credits).

- This will inform the report's recommendation of the best combination of delivery model (e.g. carbon credit scheme, business rates) and investment vehicle to secure the outcomes for this catchment in the form of an investment-ready fund for industry to invest in, following consultation and engagement with abstractors.

The commission will then be concluded by the consultant(s) setting out further work required to implement these proposals in the form of a roadmap and action plan through to benefits realisation.

Outputs/KPIs:

1. Regular meeting attendance with the team managing the contract (e.g. weekly check-ins), and steering group.
2. Consultation with key stakeholders
3. Delivery of feasibility study and investment model within agreed timescales.
4. Delivery against the following outputs:
 - a) Engage with the established project steering group comprised local authorities, Water Resources West, the Environment Agency and potential delivery partners (Catchment Partnerships etc). As engagement begins, this will look to establish a wider group, including abstractors
 - b) Literature review identifying both UK and international examples of similar uses and their impacts.
 - c) Workshop(s) with steering group to review examples and identify local opportunities and challenges.
 - d) Draft report covering the commission's objectives which will be circulated to the steering group.
 - e) Workshop with steering group to provide feedback on draft report and support the completion of objectives which will carry this work forward (delivery model and investment vehicle and the ongoing action plan for successful delivery).
 - f) Final draft report for review by steering group.
 - g) Final report meeting all objectives and incorporating steering group feedback.

Consultants will also need to have an understanding of the mechanisms and key parties/stakeholders within Cheshire and the wider North West region who are responsible for nature's recovery and preservation of our region's waterways. This includes relevant Government departments, NGOs and key stakeholder networks (e.g. Local Nature Partnerships, Catchment Partnerships). This will be complemented by an understanding of key policy commitments by Government and existing programmes and funding.

Stakeholder engagement

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Via colleagues working within the sector, the consultant(s) will also need to allocate time within their proposal/pricing schedule to engage with landowners/farmers along the Weaver-Gowy catchment as well as the above stakeholders, among others, over the proposed ideas and feasibility of the interventions and their location(s). The consultant(s) will have support from LNRS colleagues/Cheshire Wildlife Trust to assist with engagement.

For further information, please refer to the reference list.

Budget

A budget of up to £40,000 excl. VAT is available.

Suppliers should quote against each activity in the pricing form provided, which must also show the daily rates for key members of staff / key delivery roles.

Project management

Day to day project management will be provided by Anna Parker, Net Zero and Economic Programme Officer at ECW, with support from Mike Wolffe, Net Zero Programme Manager and other colleagues as required. A range of public and private partner organisations and industry experts will act as the steering group for this piece of work. This includes the Environment Agency, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Cheshire East Council, LNRS colleagues, Water Resources West, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and United Utilities.

The appointed consultant(s) should make allowance for regular check-ins with the lead officer, and liaison via telephone and e-mail with officers and key stakeholders as necessary.

We envision that the programme of work will be completed in final by March 2026, with funds committed and a draft / interim report available by December 2025 with a date to be set by ECW colleagues.

Consortium bids are welcomed provided there is a clear division of roles and responsibilities, and confirmation of which party will be the nominated lead.

The Weaver-Gowy catchment spans most of Cheshire and is the source of water abstraction for nationally significant industries. This includes the extraction of salt and the corresponding production of chlorine derived chemicals. The northern part of the catchment is the focus of the North West's industrial cluster from Ellesmere Port to Runcorn.

Over the past 18 months, through collaborative partnership across the subregion, partners have identified numerous challenges and risks in the near-to-long-term regarding the capacity of the Weaver and the Gowy rivers and have been developing early proposals for an investment model to finance nature-based solutions in the Weaver-Gowy catchment to improve water availability. This project places focus on the Weaver Gowy catchment as a critical resource for future sustainable green hydrogen production, alongside current abstraction rates. By improving water retention and reducing abstraction constraints, the project seeks to enable scalable and sustainable electrolytic hydrogen infrastructure while providing co-benefits to nature's recovery such as flood risk reduction, increased farm productivity, and carbon sequestration, by investigating the potential for strategic and effect NbS implementation.

This work will also align to the Environment Agency's Weaver and Dane Abstraction Licence Strategy as well as the Water Framework Directive's aim of improving water quality of individual waterbodies and will help to co-ordinate action in line with the River Basin Management Plan objectives to bring waterbodies up to Good Ecological Status or potential (GES/P). This abstraction licence strategy underpins this work as without improvements to water availability, there is a significant threat to economic growth via this abstraction and project expansion for decarbonisation efforts. The Environment Agency (EA) will be reviewing abstraction licences to ensure compliance with the WFD.

Abstraction licences could be capped at recent actual abstraction levels, removing headroom for growth, or licence limits could be reduced below recent levels of actual abstraction. Where industrial abstractors need more water in the future, there may instead be less water that can be abstracted. Climate change is reducing river flows due to lower summer rainfall, increasing this risk over time.

The next steps are now to research and assess the existing evidence base, then build upon this to identify the strategic locations to implement NbS on the Weaver-Gowy catchment. Building on existing stakeholder engagement, the development of an investment model will then provide an opportunity to drive forward work addressing water security issues and risks in the catchment.

The consultant will need to use the research conducted to estimate the likely water availability and co-benefits that can be brought from such nature-based solutions (e.g. carbon sequestration, water quality, biodiversity net gain).

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This work takes inspiration from the work of the Green Investment Plan in Cumbria by the Green Finance Community Hub CIC, which outlines a credible financing strategy to support the investment into Cumbria's climate positive potential. Some of the ideas presented could be mimicked to suit the green and blue infrastructure across Cheshire. This includes the 'warehouse' model for woodland, peatland and other nature-based projects using carbon financing, carbon credits and BNG.

A small group of partners will be involved to help steer the development of the project, drawing on the group's knowledge and existing stakeholder relationships, networks and resources. This will involve local authority partners, private sector, and NGOs/third sector organisations. This includes Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Environment Agency, Water Resources West, and the Weaver Gowy Catchment Partnership.

Funding has been provided by a successful bid as part of the SPARK grant programme and subject to ECW receiving the funds and the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA).

SECTION 4 – Award Criteria

4.1 Award Criteria

The Contract will be awarded on the basis of the following weighted award criteria:

	Award Criteria	Weighting
4.1.1	Conformance to Specification Submissions which do not, in the opinion of ECW, adequately meet the Performance Specification will not be marked for the Technical Merit and Price Criteria outlined below and will not be taken forward to any subsequent stages of the Tender evaluation.	PASS/FAIL
4.1.2	Technical Merit (Quality)	75%
4.1.3	Value for money	25%
	TOTAL	100%

The Technical Merit criteria is made up of the following sub-criteria:

4.1.3.1	Approach and methodology for the commission	25%
4.1.3.2	Track record and experience with similar adaptation-related projects	15%
4.1.3.3	Qualifications, expertise and relevant experience of the consultant or project team	20%
4.1.3.4	Approach to project management and quality assurance, including a project plan and timeline	15%

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Technical scores from the Tender stage will then be added together to give a total technical score out of 75% which will then be added to the Value for Money score (out of 25%) to give an overall score of 100%.

4.2 Supplier Evaluation

The evaluation of submissions will be on the criteria listed below in section 4. The criteria will count for 100% of the overall evaluation with the relevant weightings listed next to each individual criterion stated below.

Evaluation criteria will be a combination of both financial and non-financial factors and will consider the following areas:

4.2.1 Value for Money (25%)

The Value for Money criteria carries a weighting of 25% of the overall achievable score. The supplier must provide an economically sound and commercially attractive proposal offering outstanding customer service and satisfaction.

As part of the VfM assessment, the consultant(s) will be assessed for any social value which would be generated by the additional outputs or outcomes as part of the project.

Please see Appendix 2 Pricing Schedule to be completed and returned by all suppliers.

4.2.1.1 Prices submitted as part of this ITT must remain open for acceptance for a minimum of 120 days from the closing date for the receipt of offers.

4.2.1.2 Prices must be exclusive of VAT. Please see Appendix 2 for Pricing schedule that should be completed and returned as part of your tender response.

4.2.1.3 The contract price will be fixed for the duration of the contract.

4.2.1.4 Bidders must demonstrate how their proposals represent overall value for money and how they will assist ECW with cost initiatives.

4.2.2 Technical Merit (Quality) (75%)

Quality – This carries a weighting of 75% of the overall achievable score and is broken down into the following areas and respective weightings.

1. COMPANY DETAILS

i) – iv) Provide company details

WEIGHTING

Information only

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2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE COMMISSION 25%

- i) Please outline your approach for this commission, the methodology you will pursue and what steps you anticipate will be needed to identify the strategic interventions
- ii) Please outline the mix of investment mechanisms you'd assess in the development of the investment model and how would you stack these to improve viability (e.g. credits)

3. TRACK RECORD AND EXPERIENCE 15%

- i) Please describe your experience with similar adaptation and/ or water-related projects and policy, and your awareness of this specific focus of Cheshire and Warrington and wider North West region, and how this would inform your approach to this commission

4. CREDENTIALS OF PROJECT TEAM 20%

- i) Please outline the qualifications, expertise and experience of the proposed consultant or project team
- ii) CVs (4 pages max.)

5. APPROACH TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE 15%

- i) Please describe your approach to project management, and how you will approach quality assurance for this project.
- ii) Please attach your project plan for delivering this commission

6. VALUE FOR MONEY 25%

- i). Please indicate any additional outputs or outcomes you anticipate as part of your project/delivery plan or other considerations regarding value for money, including highlighting any social value that will be generated in delivery of the project outputs. For example, social value initiatives could promote equality, diversity, and inclusion within the clean energy sector, accounting for both protected characteristics and broader concerns such as socioeconomic background, rurality, etc.

7. UNDERSTANDING THE BRIEF YES/NO

Please see Appendix 3 Supplier Technical Questions & Answer sheet to be completed and returned by all suppliers.

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The information supplied will be checked for completeness and compliance before Tenders are evaluated. Failure to comply with any of the requirements or any other specified requirements might render a tender liable to disqualification.

NOTE: If any criteria within the specification document are classed as non-compliant ECW will not be able to take your tender through to the next stage. If, however, you state that you are non-compliant and are able to provide an alternative solution, ECW reserve the right to consider the alternative solution. No guarantee will be given that the alternative solution will be accepted.

4.3 Scoring Principles

Submitted Tenders will be assessed against the above criteria and scored using the following points system principles:

Scoring criteria	Score
Failure to respond or irrelevant information which fails to meet the requirement	0
Response is inadequate, significantly failing to meet the requirements	1
Response is unsatisfactory partially meets the requirement	2
Response is acceptable and meets the minimum requirement	3
Response is good - better than merely acceptable	4
Response is excellent, exceeds the requirement and gives added value	5

Clarifications maybe sought in writing, or by interview/presentation from the suppliers and scores adjusted accordingly. Visits to reference sites may also allow for adjustments to scores.

Full or partial proposals that in the opinion of ECW are unrealistically low or not reasonable sustainable (in terms of Quality or Price) may be rejected.

Technical scores will be added together to give a total technical score out of 75% which will then be added to the Value for Money score (out of 25%) to give an overall score of 100%.

SECTION 5 – Submission requirements and timetable

5.1 Closing Date & Submission

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The closing date and time for the receipt of submissions and all requested documentation relating to this stage is 09:00 hours (9am) on Tuesday 5th August 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions will only be accepted if they are returned via email to tenders@cheshireandwarrington.com. Bidders should not send their completed submissions to/copy in any other email address.

Tenderers are advised that it is compulsory to complete and return all of the following documents in the format provided as per the instructions of this ITT. All questions must be answered, where a question does not apply please state "Not applicable". Failure to complete the documents in full and/or provide all documentation will result in a non-compliant tender submission and will mean that your tender is not considered.

1. Form of Tender Declaration (Appendix 1)
2. Pricing Schedule (Appendix 2)
3. Supplier Technical Questions & Answer Sheet (Appendix 3)

5.2 Tender Queries

If you have any specific questions concerning this document or the process for submission of your proposal, then please email through to: tenders@cheshireandwarrington.com no later than Thursday 17th July 2025, 12:00. Only questions submitted to this email address will be answered. Queries received after this date will not be accepted and will not be responded to.

It would be most helpful if queries could be submitted in one email rather than piecemeal. If any question or request for clarification is considered to be of material significance, both the question and the response may be issued for review by all potential providers in a suitably anonymous form. All communication received from potential providers will be treated in strict confidence but are subject to this paragraph.

5.3 Proposed Schedule of Events

The proposed schedule for the procurement process is as follows. However, the dates indicated, except for the return date should be regarded as indicative at this stage as ECW reserves the right to extend and / or amend the timetable as necessary. Any major changes will be communicated to all potential tenderers.

Activity	Date
Invitation to Tender (ITT) Live	Thursday 10 th July 2025
Deadline for queries	Thursday 17 th July 2025, 12:00

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ECW response to queries via email to all tenderers	Monday 21 st July 2025
Tender submission deadline	Tuesday 5 th August 2025, 09:00
Evaluation of submissions	Wednesday 6 th August - Friday 8 th August 2025
Interviews, if required	Monday 11 th August 2025
Bidders notified of contract award	Tuesday 12 th August 2025
Contract signing	Tuesday 12 th August 2025
Contract to start	Tuesday 12 th August 2025

5.4 Instructions to tenderers

Bidders:

- Shall either destroy or return all documentation related to the tender process if ECW so directs
- Shall ensure that tenders are both technically and arithmetically correct. Should ECW discover any arithmetical errors in the bidder's tender prices then these shall be pointed out to the bidder who shall immediately correct the errors or they shall be asked to withdraw its tender or hold the prices submitted, at the discretion of ECW
- Shall not alter the ITT documents. Tender proposals will be deemed to comply entirely with the terms stated therein unless the bidder states otherwise in writing. If any alteration is made or if these instructions are not fully complied with, the tender proposal may be rejected
- Will be deemed to have satisfied themselves as to the sufficiency of their tender proposal and to have included in it all costs which may be incurred in the delivery of the services. They shall also be responsible for satisfying themselves as to the accuracy of all information associated with the contract and that all eventualities have been included

The contract will be entered into on the basis of the total tender package (inclusive of VAT) which will be included as part of the Contract Documents including any amounts or additions made and agreed during the tender proposal assessment period. ECW reserves the right not to contract or contract only in part with any bidder.

The information supplied within this ITT and accompanying documents reflects ECW's current view of the services required. Whilst the information in this ITT has been prepared in good faith, it does not purport to be comprehensive or to have been independently verified. This ITT is issued on the basis that:

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- ECW does not accept any liability, responsibility or duty of care to any tenderer for the adequacy, accuracy or completeness of this ITT or for anything said or done in relation to the procurement to which this ITT relates;
- ECW does not make any (express or implied) representation or warranty either about the information contained in this ITT or on which it is based, or about any written or oral information that may be made available to any bidder;
- Nothing contained in this ITT constitutes an inducement or incentive in any way to persuade an interested person to pursue its interest, submit a tender proposal or enter into any contract;
- Neither this ITT nor any information supplied by ECW should be relied on as a promise or representation as to its future requirements;
- This ITT is neither an offer capable of acceptance nor is it intended to create a binding contract nor is it capable of creating such a contract by any subsequent actions

ECW reserves the right to suspend, cancel or withdraw the tender process at any time and will not be responsible for any costs incurred to potential suppliers.

SECTION 6 – Terms and conditions of tender submissions

Please see below for the terms and conditions of this tender. Through submitting a bid on this tender, you are committing to meet and abide by these terms and conditions:

6.1 Confidentiality and Disclaimer

This ITT is not an offer capable of acceptance, but represents a definition of specific legal service requirements and an invitation to submit a response addressing such requirements.

Neither the issue of the ITT to you, your preparation and submission of a tender, or the subsequent receipt and evaluation of your tender by ECW commits ECW to award a contract to you or any other bidder, even if all requirements stated in the ITT are met. ECW is not responsible directly or indirectly for any costs incurred by your firm in responding to this ITT and participating in ECW's procurement process.

All firms shall keep strictly confidential any and all information contained in this ITT, and other information or documents made available to it by or on behalf of ECW in connection with this ITT. The firms shall not disclose, nor allow any such information to be disclosed. Submission of a formal response to this ITT will confirm your agreement to observe these confidentiality requirements.

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Contact by the firms with ECW during the bidding process should only be via the contact stated within this ITT. Respondents shall not offer or give any consideration of any kind to any employee or representative of ECW as an inducement or reward for doing, or refraining from doing, any act in relation to the obtaining or execution of this or any other contract with ECW.

6.2 Material Misrepresentation

ECW shall rely on the information provided by the bidder in relation to its offer. In providing the services as specified in the Invitation to Tender documents the successful bidder/tenderer shall comply with the contents of its offer as failure in this respect may constitute a material breach of contract.

6.3 Collusive Bidding

Collusive bidding is unacceptable to ECW. Any tenderer that is caught by ECW to be circumventing rules or the law during this tender process will automatically be disqualified from the tender process.

This applies to any bidder who:

- a). Fixes or adjusts the amount of his bid by or in accordance with any agreement or arrangement with any other person, or
- b). Communicates to any person other than ECW the amount or approximate amount of his proposal (except where such disclosure is made in confidence in order to obtain quotations necessary for the preparation of the tender for instance) or,
- c). Enters into any agreement or arrangement with any other person* that he shall refrain from bidding or as to the amount of any bid to be submitted, or
- d). Offers or agrees to pay or give, or does pay or gives any sum of money, inducement or valuable consideration directly or indirectly to any person for doing or having done, or causing or having caused to be done in relation to any Offer or proposed Offer for the Services or any act or omission will be disqualified (without prejudice to any other civil remedies available to ECW and without prejudice to any criminal liability which such conduct by a bidder may attract)

*NB Sub-contracting is permissible where the bidder believes that this will enhance their proposal, however this must be clearly stated.

6.4 Bribery

Bribery means any offence under the Bribery Act 2010 or related Laws creating offences in relation to offering, promising or giving a bribe or requesting, agreeing to receive or receiving a bribe

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The Contractor agrees with the Client that this Contract will operate on the basis of zero tolerance being shown towards any Fraud and/or Bribery. The Contractor shall take all reasonable steps, in accordance with Good Industry Practice, to prevent Fraud and Bribery by Staff and the Contractor (including its shareholders, members, directors) in connection with the receipt of monies from the Client and with the operation of this Contract.

6.5 TUPE

The following provisions regarding TUPE are extremely important. Please ensure that you read them carefully.

ECW expects that TUPE will not apply to this contract.

In cases of TUPE Tenderers are advised to seek independent professional advice on the effect of TUPE. Tenderers must be prepared to accept all liabilities which may arise as a consequence of the application of TUPE, should it apply. ECW takes no liability in regards to inaccuracy of TUPE information provided in this tender.

When submitting a Tender, Tenderers are required to include all costs relating to TUPE in their submission.

6.6 Data Protection Act Compliance

The successful bidder must comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) and all applicable law concerning the processing of personal data and privacy. Full contract terms can be found within the terms and conditions (see Appendix 5).

ECW's privacy notice can be found at: <https://cheshireandwarrington.com/privacy-policy/>

6.7 Social Value

ECW's vision to be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy in the UK, closely aligns to the Government's social value priorities.

Under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 ECW must consider:

- a) how what is being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area where it exercises its functions, and
- b) how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement.

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In addition, the National Procurement Policy Statement ([National Procurement Policy Statement.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652222/National_Procurement_Policy_Statement.pdf)) sets out the following national priorities that should be considered alongside individual local priorities:

- creating new businesses, new jobs and new skills;
- tackling climate change and reducing waste, and
- improving supplier diversity, innovation and resilience.

All successful suppliers must be willing to work closely with ECW throughout the contract duration to assist them in achieving both their vision and their social value obligations.

ECW reserve the right to incorporate social value commitments made by the supplier as part of their tender submission into the resultant final contract.

APPENDIX 1 - FORM OF TENDER – TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED

Declaration by Tenderer

ITT Title: The Development of a Technical Feasibility and investment model for the strategic implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) within the Weaver Gowry Catchment

1. I, *[insert name]*, certify that I am the person duly authorised to sign tenders for and on behalf of *[insert company name]*, the tenderer, and having read the documents, offer to supply the goods, services or works:
 - as set out in the specification and accompanying tender documents, samples and/or drawings
 - under the terms and conditions indicated
 - at the price (or prices) specified in the attached tender documentation
2. It is agreed that any or other terms and conditions of contract or any caveats, assumptions, reservations or exclusions that may be printed on correspondence emanating from the tender, or any Contract resulting from this tender, shall not be applicable to this tender or agreement.
3. I certify that this is a bona fide tender and that I have not fixed or adjusted the amount of the tender by, or under, or in accordance with any agreement with any other person. I have not done, and undertake that I will not do at any time before the hour and date specified for the return of the tender, any of the following acts:
 - Communicate to a person other than ECW, the amount or approximate amount of the proposed tender, except where the disclosure, in confidence, of the approximate amount of the tender was necessary to obtain insurance premium quotations required for the preparation of the tender

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- Enter into an agreement or arrangement with any other person that he/she will refrain from tendering or to the amount of any tender to be submitted
 - Offer, or pay, or give, or agree to pay any sum of money or valuable consideration, directly or indirectly to any person for doing, or having done, or causing to be done in relation to any tender or proposed tender, for the said work, any act or thing of the sort described above
4. I further certify that the principles described in paragraph 3 have been, or will be, brought to the attention of all subcontractors, suppliers and associated companies providing services or materials connected with the tender and any contract entered into with the subcontractors, suppliers or associated companies will be made on the basis of the compliance with the above principles by all parties.
5. I understand that ECW reserves the right, unless the tenderer stipulates to the contrary in the tender, to accept such portion thereof as ECW may decide. ECW is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.
6. I have obeyed the rules regarding confidentiality of tenders and will continue to do so as long as they apply.
7. I can confirm that I accept that any breach of any of the conditions could lead to any tender being rejected or to the rescission of the Contract by ECW.

Authorised Signatory	
Date	
Name in BLOCK LETTERS	
Job Title	
Telephone Number	
E-mail address	

Please ensure that the form is completed and signed before being returned with any other supporting documentation requested, by the due date and time. Use the checklist to ensure that you have submitted the relevant documents.

Staff Broken down by role			
Staff role/name	Amount of time to be spent on project	Day rate	Total
Attendance at meetings	Number of meetings	Rate	

Travel and subsistence		
Other costs: please specify		
Total Tendered Price (exc of VAT)		

NB: The price schedule may be returned on an excel spreadsheet.

1. COMPANY DETAILS

Please provide company details within the table below:

Question number	Question	Response
1(i)	Full name of the potential supplier submitting the information	
1(ii)	Registered office address (if applicable)	
1(iii)	Registered website address (if applicable)	
1(iv)	Trading status a) public limited company b) limited company c) limited liability partnership d) other partnership e) sole trader f) third sector g) other (please specify your trading status)	
1(v)	Date of registration in country of origin	
1(vi)	Company registration number (if applicable)	
1(vii)	Charity registration number (if applicable)	
1(viii)	Head office DUNS number (if applicable)	
1(ix)	Registered VAT number	

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY FOR THE COMMISSION 25%

i). Please outline your approach for this commission, the methodology you will pursue and what steps you anticipate will be needed to identify the strategic interventions

ANSWER FEEDBACK

ii). Please outline the mix of investment mechanisms you would assess in the development of the investment model and how would you stack these to improve viability (e.g. credits)

3. TRACK RECORD AND EXPERIENCE 15%

i) Please describe your experience with similar adaptation and/or water-related projects and policy, and your awareness of this specific focus of Cheshire and Warrington and wider North West region, and how this would inform your approach to this commission

[ANSWER FEEDBACK](#)

4. CREDENTIALS OF PROJECT TEAM 20%

i) Please outline the qualifications, expertise and experience of the proposed consultant or project team

[ANSWER FEEDBACK](#)

ii) CVs (4 pages max.)

[ANSWER FEEDBACK](#)

5. APPROACH TO PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY ASSURANCE 15%

i) Please describe your approach to project management, and how you will approach quality assurance for this project.

[ANSWER FEEDBACK](#)

ii) Please attach your project plan for delivering this commission

[ANSWER FEEDBACK](#)

6. VALUE FOR MONEY (25%)

i). Please indicate any additional outputs or outcomes you anticipate as part of your project/delivery plan or other considerations regarding value for money, including highlighting any social value that will be generated in delivery of the project outputs. For example, social value initiatives could promote equality, diversity, and inclusion within the clean energy sector, accounting for both protected characteristics and broader concerns such as socioeconomic background, rurality, etc.

[ANSWER FEEDBACK](#)

Enterprise Cheshire + Warrington



1. Regular meeting attendance with the team managing the contract (e.g. weekly check-ins), and steering group.
2. Consultation with key stakeholders
3. Delivery of feasibility study and investment model within agreed timescales.
4. Delivery against the following outputs:
 - a) Engage with the established project steering group comprised local authorities, Water Resources West, the Environment Agency and potential delivery partners (Catchment Partnerships etc). As engagement begins, this will look to establish a wider group, including abstractors
 - b) Literature review identifying UK and international examples of similar uses and their impacts.
 - c) Workshop(s) with steering group to review examples and identify local opportunities and challenges.
 - d) Draft report covering the commission's objectives which will be circulated to the steering group.
 - e) Workshop with steering group to provide feedback on draft report and support the completion of objectives which will carry this work forward (delivery model and investment vehicle and the ongoing action plan for successful delivery).
 - f) Final draft report for review by steering group.
 - g) Final report meeting all objectives and incorporating steering group feedback.

ECW contract for the Supply of Services shall form the basis of the main terms and conditions of the contract (see attached document). The successful bidder must thoroughly read, agree and comply with the Contract Terms & Conditions Agreement.

Contractors Induction Checklist provided in tender documentation will form part of the contract.

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References:

The appointed consultant (s) will be provided with materials / evidence base of work previously undertaken by ECW (or under the previous entity of C&W LEP) and partners close to the Weaver-Gowy Catchment, consultant(s) are responsible for building on this evidence base by identifying and filling any data gaps.

This includes:

Cheshire and Warrington Natural Capital Audit and Investment Plan (October 2021) [Cheshire_Warrington_Natural_Capital_Audit_and_Investment_Plan \(2\).pdf](#) and associated reports:

[NCAIP case studies report](#), [NCAIP future financing report](#), [NCAIP workshop report](#), [NCAIP intervention and investment opportunities report](#), [NCAIP natural capital audit and policy analysis report](#)

Water Resources West Report – Water Means Business: Water resources, sustainability and growth in the Weaver-Gowy catchment (November 2024) [Weaver-Gowy Catchment Report_final.pdf](#) and [WRW and Water Abstractor Groups Summary.pdf](#)
[Water Resources West Final Regional Plan – Water Resources West](#)

Groundwork hosted Weaver-Gowy Catchment Partnership [Weaver Gowy Catchment - Groundwork](#) and Weaver Gowy Management Action Plan [Weaver-Gowy-17.9.19v2.pdf](#) and Story Maps of the catchment: [Weaver Gowy Story Map](#)

DEFRA/EA Catchment Data: [Weaver Gowy Management Catchment | Catchment Data Explorer](#)

United Utilities Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan 2023 Weaver Gowy 2022 [spa_13-weaver-gowy-dwmp.pdf](#)

Green Finance Institute HIVE River Wyre NfM Project [The Wyre Catchment Natural Flood Management Project](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council report of Storm Christoph and impacts of flooding in Northwich [s19-storm-christoph-report CWAC Weaver Gowy.pdf](#)

Cheshire East Council Climate Action Plan (2025-2030) [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Cheshire West and Chester Council Climate Emergency Response Plan [climate-emergency-response-plan](#)

Warrington Borough Council Climate Emergency Action Plan [Climate Action Plan Summary 2023.pdf](#) [Climate Emergency Action Plan 2023.pdf](#)

"Investing in a Green Cumbria": Green Investment Plan Cumbria Report [cumbria-report-final-2.pdf](#)

Nature North – Investing in Nature for the North: A Strategic Plan for a Nature Positive Regional Economy: [Investing in Nature for the North – A Strategic Plan for a Nature Positive Regional Economy](#)

Cheshire Local Nature Partnership Vision and Goals: [Nature Based Solutions - Cheshire Local Nature Partnership](#)