**Tender for:**

**Christmas Lighting Scheme**

**1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031**

**Introduction**

**About Dunstable Town Council**

Dunstable Town Council was formed in 1985, located in Bedfordshire. Dunstable is one of the country’s largest town councils and is the second tier of local government, positioned within Central Bedfordshire Council.

The council consists of 18 councillors who represent five wards and serve a population of about 37,000 people. The council is responsible for providing various services and facilities for the town, such as parks, cemeteries, allotments, markets, community events, civic awards, grants, and consultations. The council also works in partnership with other organisations to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Dunstable and its residents.

The council is seeking a new Christmas Lighting Contractor

The successful bidder will be expected to work closely with the council's project team throughout the implementation process, as well as to provide ongoing support and training.

**Objective**

Dunstable Town Council (DTC) is looking to appoint an experienced and qualified Christmas Lighting Contractor that will be responsible for, the installation and removal of Dunstable’s Christmas lighting scheme, together with its storage, and maintenance as well as the testing of columns, lighting, mechanical, structural and electrical. It is expected that the successful contractor will carry out all work in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance. The tender value is up to £75,000 and should cover a 5 year period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031, using the following decorations:

**Column Decorations**

7 ½ snowflake decorations (over 5 years old)

33 Large Golden Sun Motifs

2 Smaller Golden Sun Motifs

16 / 8 pairs Large Golden Sun Motifs

7 Curtain lights

**Tree Decorations**

Ashton Square 3 Trees with Boas and Mistletoe Stars

West Street 2 Trees with Boas and Mistletoe Stars

Church Street 4 Trees with Mistletoe Stars/ 4 Trees with Boas

 High Street North 1 Tree with Boas and Mistletoe Stars

Court Drive 1 Trees with Mistletoe Stars

Grove House 1 Trees with Boas

**Festoons**

High Street North 2 sections along shop fronts (over 5 years old)

High Street South 1 section along shop fronts (over 5 years old)

Grove House Gardens 4 sections (Linked between lampposts) in place all year Middle Row 1 section, in place all year with community art (6 years)

**Christmas Tree Dressings**

30 ft Christmas tree to dress with white lighting and star in Ashton Square

20 ft Christmas tree in Priory Garderen to dress with multi-coloured lights

All decorations are all currently between 5 and 3 years old, unless started above and in full working order.

The Council is also taking this opportunity to obtain quotes for extending its Christmas lighting scheme, and a separate table should be completed for this stand-alone item.

**Tender Introduction**

The Council is issuing this Tender document to attract potential bidders to our tender process

This document contains details of how to submit a bid, the nature of the contract and the timelines that the successful bidder will need to work to.

Please contact Annette.clynes@dunstable.gov.uk (Town Centre Manager) if you have any questions or require any clarification.

It is important to the Council that a single supplier can provide the support, account management and billing for all services delivered. To aid service delivery there must be clear point of contacts for specific roles and responsibilities.

The supplier may sub-contract delivery of certain areas if this is made clear in the tender response and that by sub-contracting it does not stop the organisation providing the single support, account management and billing required. The tender applicant must also provide detail on how they validate any working relationship with a 3rd party contractor. All parties must be fully insured.

The supplier may sub-contract elements of service provision but must state clearly in their response that they remain entirely responsible for the delivery of service, the quality of that service and its associated communications. This should include, but is not limited to, ensuring that all services are delivered in compliance with appropriate regulations and standards, and are appropriately insured. The use of sub-contractors will be entirely transparent to the Council.

**Submission Details**

Organisations wishing to reply to this tender must fully read this document including the separate Appendix sections. The organisation must fill in the forms and tables within **Appendix B** of this tender.

In addition, Appendix B, the organisation must also submit a **detailed proposal** including:

* **Risk assessment**
* **Method statement**
* **Health and Safety Policy**
* **Working at Height Policy**
* **Evidence of certification/qualifications**
* **Example of a town entrance lighting decoration for a new scheme**

**Instructions and Information on the Tender Document and Process**

**Important notice**

The Council have issued this Request for Quotation (RFQ) to interested Tenderers, to allow them and their professional advisers to prepare a Quotation for this Contract and for no other purpose.

The Council give this RFQ and any other documentation that the Council sends to Tenderers for this Quotation process, on the basis that they remain the Council’s property and Tenderers must treat the contents as confidential. If Tenderers are unable or unwilling to keep to this rule they:

* must destroy this RFQ and all associated documents at once; and
* must not keep any electronic or paper copies.

Tenderers must not take part in any publicity activities with any part of the media about the Contract or this RFQ process without getting the Council’s written agreement first. This includes the Council’s agreement on the format and content of any publicity.

This RFQ is made available in good faith. The Council give no warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in it. The Council also disclaim any liability for any inaccuracy or incompleteness. The Council reserve the right to cancel the Quotation process at any point.

These instructions are designed to ensure that all tender responses are given equal and fair consideration. It is important therefore that you provide all the information in the format and order specified.

Pre-tender negotiations are not permitted.

**Contract Period**

The contract will be 1 April 2026, subject to satisfactory performance and by mutual agreement.

The Town Council expects to reach a provisional decision on the award of the contract 11 February 2026, at the latest.

The successful bidder will be required to commence work from 1 April 2026

**Incomplete Tender Documents**

Tender responses may be rejected if the information asked for is incomplete or

proves to be inaccurate.

**Receipt of Tender Documents**

The completed tender form must either be:

* posted in a sealed envelope, and marked Christmas lighting Tender for the attention of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive

or

* emailed to accounts@dunstable.gov.uk with subject Christmas lighting Tender.

Submission should be received no later than arrive no later than 10 November 2025

Those received before the due date will be retained until then. It is the responsibility of the submitter to ensure that their document is received no later than the appointed time.

By issuing this invitation the Council is not bound in any way to continue with the tender process.

**Inducements**

Offering an inducement of any kind in relation to obtaining this or any other contract with the Council will disqualify your tender from being considered and may constitute a criminal offence.

**Confidentiality of Tenders**

Please note the following requirements, you must not:

* Tell anyone else what your tender price is or will be before the time limit for delivery of tenders.
* Try to obtain any information about anyone else's tender or proposed tender before the time limit for delivery of tenders.
* Make any arrangements with another organisation about whether or not they should tender, or about their or your tender price.

Failure to comply with these conditions may disqualify your tender.

**Costs and Expenses**

You will not be entitled to claim from the Council any costs or expenses which you

may incur in preparing your tender or expression of interest, whether or not your

tender is successful.

**Freedom of Information**

The Council is committed to open government and to meeting their responsibilities.

under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Accordingly, all information submitted

to the Council may need to be disclosed in response to a request under the Act. If

you consider that any of the information included in your tender is commercially

sensitive, please identify it and explain (in broad terms) what harm may result from

Disclosure. If a request is received, and the time period applicable to that sensitivity.

You should be aware that, even where you have indicated that information is

commercially sensitive, we may still be required to disclose it under the Act if a

request is received. Please also note that the receipt of any material marked

‘confidential’ or equivalent by the Council should not be taken to mean that we

accept any duty of confidence by virtue of that marking. If a request is received, we

may also be required to disclose details of unsuccessful tenders or expressions of

interest.

**Tender Scoring**

Each tender response will be evaluated against an agreed scoring method. The

scoring method is shown in Appendix B of this document.

**Conclusions**

Whilst every endeavour has been made to give tenderers an accurate description of

the Council’s requirement, tenderers should make their own assessment about the

methods and resources needed to meet those requirements.

**Tender Timeline**

The tender process timeline is outlined below. All dates are subject to change.

The successful organisation will be selected from the organisations asked to present to the panel.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tender Docs Issued  |  30 September 2025 |
| Deadline For Clarifications  |  1 November 2025 |
| Deadline for Submissions  |  9 am 10 November 2025 |
| Invitations to Presentations Issued  | 17 November 2025 (if required) |
| Presentations Held  |  26 November 2025 (if required) |
| Decision Made on Appointment and Communicated  | 11 February 2026 |
| Standstill Period  |  11 February – 18 February 2026  |
| Chosen Supplier Confirmed  |  20 February 2026  |

The Council withholds the right to enter final commercial negotiations with the successful organisation before signing contracts.

**Compliance**

All bidders are expected to confirm they comply with the following legislation/standards and to provide proof upon request:

* Equality Act 2010
* General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018 preferably via an Information Security Policy that reflects the control objectives as specified within the ISO27001 control set.
* Relevant documentation relating to the maintenance and testing of Christmas lighting

**Outline of Council Requirements**

Dunstable Town Council has outlined below the requirements for the contract. This will enable organisations to determine if they wish to submit a tender.

Dunstable Town Council wants prospective suppliers to provide solutions that meet these requirements based on their experience of working with similar organisations and understanding of the available solutions in the market.

The Council is willing to review any solution put forward if it meets the basic requirements outlined below. Please ensure all solutions have a proven track record, are commercially viable and fully supported by yourselves.

* Storage, installation, dismantling, and maintenance of Dunstable’s Christmas lighting display, see the objectives section of this document for full details.
* To quote for the purchase, testing, storage, installation, dismantling and maintenance of new displays at the four entrances to the town.