

Bid Assessment Framework

**As applied to Third Party Providers of Water
Resources and Demand Management services.**

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Glossary	3
Introduction	4
Why do we have a Bid Assessment Framework	4
Using the Bid Assessment Framework.....	4
Understanding This Document	4
Contact details	4
Northumbrian Water Limited	5
Northumbrian Water	5
Essex & Suffolk Water	5
NWL water resources	7
Water Resource Zones Supply / Demand Forecasts	9
Statutory Obligations	9
Operation of the Bid Assessment Framework	10
NWL Position on Bid Assessment Framework	10
Operation of the Framework.....	10
Bid Assessment Framework.....	10
Need Specification.....	11
Time Limits and Bid Clarifications	11
Demand management – Procurement strategy	13
Third Party Contracts.....	14
Associated Documents	15
Appendix A – Demand management Option Details.....	16
Appendix B – Prequalification Information.....	18

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

GLOSSARY

Capex	Capital expenditure
Consumer Council for Water	A statutory consumer body for water and wastewater consumers in England and Wales
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the UK Government department with responsibility for the water sector
Environment Agency	Regulator for the natural environment in England
Essex & Suffolk Water	The south east trading name of Northumbrian Water Limited.
Natural England	The UK Government's adviser for the natural environment in England
Northumbrian Water Limited	Northumbrian Water Limited is one of ten regulated Water and Sewerage Companies in England and Wales, operating in the north east of England, trading as Northumbrian Water (NW), and in the south east of England, trading as Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW)
Northumbrian Water (North)	The north east of England trading name of Northumbrian Water Limited
Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)	This is the publication in which all tenders from the public sector which are valued above a certain financial threshold according to EU legislation, must be published.
Ofwat	Economic regulator for the water sector in England and Wales
Opex	Operational Expenditure
PR19	Periodic Review - every five years Ofwat, the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry, sets price limits that enable water and sewerage companies to finance the delivery of services to customers, in line with relevant standards and requirements. The most recent was made in 2014 (PR14) and the next one is due in 2019 (PR19).
Price controls	The limits set by Ofwat on the charges that appointed companies can make for their services
Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016	implement the directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors
Water Resources Management Plan 2014 (WRMP)	The Water Resource Management Plan is an appointed water undertaker's strategic plan for managing water supply / demand balance over a 25 year period..
Water Resources Planning Guideline (WRPG)	The water resources planning guideline provides a framework for water companies to follow when developing and presenting their water resources plans
Water Resources Zone (WRZ)	Water Resource Zone, the largest possible zone in which all resources, including external transfers, can be shared and, hence, the zone in which all customers will experience the same risk of supply failure from a resource shortfall.

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

This Bid Assessment Framework is designed to set out the principles, policies and procedures that we will adopt to ensure a level playing field is created when assessing a bid from a third party for the provision of water resources and/or leakage demand management services against our own provision.

It will aim to provide clarity and confidence to third party bidders about the process and that all bids will be assessed in a fair and transparent way against any in house solutions.

Why do we have a Bid Assessment Framework

Northumbrian Water Limited is, willing to accept bids from any party that would bring innovation and allow NWL to identify more efficient ways of delivering water resources, demand management and leakage services without adding avoided costs. We have published the water resources market information on our website.

Through this bid assessment framework we are looking to promote innovation which will allow NWL deliver water resources, demand management and leakage services more efficiently for the benefit of customers. This will ultimately mean a reduced cost for our customers.

The Office Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) wants to encourage a greater bidding market between appointed water company's in house solutions against third parties. The third parties can be independents or incumbents from outside the area.

Ofwat is keen that all incumbents produce a bid assessment framework that shows a clear commitment to the key principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination and proportionality. This is an appropriate way to provide third parties with confidence and clarity about the integrity of the procurement process.

Ofwat guidance

Further Information on Ofwat's approach to supporting the bidding market for water resources, demand management and leakage services can be found on their website using the link below:

[Delivering Water 2020: Our Final Methodology for the 2019 price review Appendix 8 Company bid assessment frameworks – the principles](#)

Using the Bid Assessment Framework

Northumbrian Water Limited will keep its bid assessment framework up to date and publicly available, via its website.

Understanding This Document

This document is structured as follows:

- Section 1: Introduces the Bid Assessment Framework
- Section 2: Northumbrian water Limited
- Section 3: Operation of the Bid Assessment Framework
- Section 4: Current Demand Management Procurement Strategy
- Section 5: Associated Documents
- Section 6: Appendices

Contact details

Any queries in relation to this Bid Assessment Framework should be directed to:

Mr Steve Crake

Head of Procurement

ADDRESS

Boldon House

Wheatlands Way,

Pity Me

Co Durham

DH1 5FA

Email: steve.crake@nwl.co.uk

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

Northumbrian Water

Northumbrian Water is a statutory water and wastewater company in the north east. The business comprises the supply of both potable and raw water and the collection, treatment and disposal of sewage and sewage sludge, serving 2.7 million people in the major population centres of Tyneside, Wearside and Teesside as well as the large rural areas of Northumberland and County Durham. We provide only waste water services in Hartlepool.

Our Northumbrian Water operating area shares a land border with United Utilities, Yorkshire Water, Hartlepool Water and Scottish Water in the north.

Essex & Suffolk Water

Essex & Suffolk Water in the south east supply water services to 1.5 million people in Essex and 0.3 million in Suffolk. Our Essex area is part rural and part urban and includes the main population centres of Chelmsford, Southend and the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham and Havering and Redbridge. Our Suffolk area is mainly rural with the largest towns being Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Our Essex & Suffolk Water operating area shares a border with Thames Water, Affinity Water and Anglian Water.

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Figure 1: Northumbrian and Essex & Suffolk Water Operating Area
Source Northumbrian Water Website



NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

NWL water resources

Northumbrian Operating Area

The Water Resource Zone (WRZ) is the basic building block of a Water Resource Management Plan. Companies will have a variable number of WRZs making up their total supply area. A WRZ is the largest area of a company's supply area where supply infrastructure and demand centres are generally integrated to the extent that customers in the WRZ should experience the same risk of supply failure due to climatic conditions. Northumbrian Water has 2 WRZs covering its supply area. These are the Berwick WRZ in the far North of the supply area and covering about 1% of the customers and the Kielder WRZ covering the remaining 99% of customers.

Figure 2 Water Resource Zones (WRZ) in the Kielder & Berwick Water Supply Areas

Source: Northumbrian Water



NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Water Resource Zones Supply / Demand Forecasts

To understand if we have sufficient water to meet our customers' needs, we compare the demand for water with the available supply, taking account of the uncertainties in the forecasts. This assessment produces the supply demand balances for each WRZ which show if there is sufficient water to meet customers' needs or if there is a deficit. The supply demand balances across our supply area are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: PR14 Balance of Supply (MI/d) for each Water Resource Zone

PR14 Balance of Supply (MI/d) Including Headroom	End of Amp 5	End of Amp 6	End of Amp 7	End of Amp 8	End of Amp 9	End of Planning Horizon
Year	2014/15	2019/20	2024/25	2029/30	2034/35	2039/40
Kielder	178	178	174	173	169	164
Berwick	0.83	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Essex	51.98	34.92	38.53	42.56	42.79	62.28
Suffolk – Northern Central	14.6	11.5	9.6	7.5	6.7	5.6
Suffolk - Blyth	2.84	2.65	2.55	2.51	2.34	2.20
Suffolk - Hartismere	3.37	3.35	3.31	3.29	3.21	3.12

Statutory Obligations

Northumbrian Water Limited operates under a comprehensive framework of statutory and regulatory obligations. These are set out in UK and EU legislation, including the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended by the Water Act 2003 and Water Act 2014), the Competition Act 1998 and the European Habitats Directive and Water Framework Directive. These obligations set the boundaries for the way we serve our customers, specifying environmental and economic standards which we must meet.

Northumbrian Water Limited is regulated by the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat), the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI).

- Ofwat is the economic regulator for all appointed water and wastewater companies and water-only companies in England and Wales. It sets limits on the revenues that these companies can recover for their services (price controls). Ofwat sets price controls in a process known as the Periodic Review (or PR). Controls were set in December 2014 (PR14) for the period April 2015 to March 2020.
- The Environment Agency seeks to maintain and improve the quality of 'raw' water in England and Wales, and is responsible for issuing water companies with abstraction licences and discharge consents. The Environment Agency is concerned with the quality of fresh surface and underground water, marine and estuarial waters, and strives to prevent/reduce the threat of water contamination.
- The DWI regulates all appointed water companies in England and Wales. It acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the National Assembly for Wales. Its role is to assess the wholesomeness of water supplies. It also undertakes technical audits of water suppliers to examine all aspects of water quality, treatment and monitoring. In addition, the DWI requires each water supplier to submit quality data on a monthly basis for scrutiny. Where necessary, the DWI can require a company to implement schemes to improve water quality, and will monitor their progress.

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

OPERATION OF THE BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

NWL Position on Bid Assessment Framework

Northumbrian Water Limited supports economic growth within its supply area. We believe that being open to third party bids for water resources, demand management and leakage services will encourage innovation and delivery efficiencies. However, as shown in Table 1: PR14 Balance of Supply (M/d) for each Water Resource Zone, we are currently forecasting a surplus in all WRZs and would therefore only seek bids when we have a known or forecast deficit.

As population and demand predictions could change, and lead to a potential deficit the following bid assessment framework has been created for a deficit scenario

In addition we have outlined our procurement strategy for demand management which outlines activities for third parties to tender while we are forecasting a surplus.

The following bid assessment is based on the OFWAT best practice recommendations from the “Delivering Water 2020: Our Final methodology for the 2019 price review. Appendix 8: Company bid assessment frameworks – the principles”

We have followed this method to demonstrate a clear commitment to:

- Transparency
- Equal treatment/non-discrimination; and
- Proportionality

OPERATION OF THE FRAMEWORK

Northumbrian Water Limited conforms to the following general high-level principles, which will govern the approach to its bid assessment framework.

Bid Assessment Framework

Prequalification	<p>The following areas will be assessed as prequalification criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compliance with NWL Procurement Policies• Information Security• Data Protection• Financial Rating• Accreditation• References• Grounds for mandatory rejection <p>More information on the criteria can be found in Appendix B – Prequalification Information</p>
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NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Need Specification	<p>We will provide a specification when the need for a water resource/demand management has been identified which will detail the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline scope/business need Environmental aspects - Northumbrian Water is committed to serving its customers in an environmentally-responsible way. We assure Ofwat, the Environment Agency and others that we will only agree contracts where we are satisfied there is no undue adverse effect on the natural environment. Water source Quality - Can be of untreated or treated water depending on the business need. Bidders must abide by Water Quality Protocols as stipulated by Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) Any assumptions made Costs and reliability <p>The specifications will not over specify the requirements and will not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the outcome.</p>																
Time Limits and Bid Clarifications	<p>We will remain open to bids when a need in reducing a deficit has been identified. This is because we expect any deficits would be small and therefore a mixture of operation and capital solutions would be implemented as business as usual. Therefore these solutions can be implemented any time with minimal disruption. The only exception to this is if a large deficit is forecast and a large capital invention is required. The reason being we will need to time limit the bids due to the delivery time required to implement the solution.</p> <p>Once an expression of interest has been received we will follow the timescales set out in the table below.</p> <p>Table 2: Bid assessment timescales</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white;"> <th style="padding: 5px;">Stage</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">NWL will respond in these timescales</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">NWL acknowledge expression of interest and issue any relevant documentation.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">1 week</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Bidder raises any queries or ambiguities.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">NWL will keep a query and ambiguity log which they will provide to all bidders. NWL will provide an answer to all questions within 4 weeks.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Bids Submitted</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">NWL will acknowledge bids are received within 1 week.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Notification of successful and unsuccessful bidders.</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">From when the bids are submitted NWL will respond within 3 months with feedback and audit report.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Standstill period</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">A 2 week period where NWL will accept any challenges.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Challenges</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">NWL will respond to challenges within 1 week.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Contract Award</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">NWL will announce and confirm the award of the contract within 4 weeks.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Stage	NWL will respond in these timescales	NWL acknowledge expression of interest and issue any relevant documentation.	1 week	Bidder raises any queries or ambiguities.	NWL will keep a query and ambiguity log which they will provide to all bidders. NWL will provide an answer to all questions within 4 weeks.	Bids Submitted	NWL will acknowledge bids are received within 1 week.	Notification of successful and unsuccessful bidders.	From when the bids are submitted NWL will respond within 3 months with feedback and audit report.	Standstill period	A 2 week period where NWL will accept any challenges.	Challenges	NWL will respond to challenges within 1 week.	Contract Award	NWL will announce and confirm the award of the contract within 4 weeks.
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NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Evaluation	<p>The evaluation process will be assessed fairly and according to the same evaluation criteria as our in-house solution. A typical evaluation criteria is listed below but will be updated with definition and weighting when a need for a water resource has been identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost (total cost of ownership) • Quality of provision • Water quality • Asset life • Sustainability • Customer acceptability • Environmental consideration • Resilience • Timing <p>The bid assessment team will be independent of the in house solution team. When assessing the bids it will be undertaken in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment/non-discrimination and proportionality.</p>
Governance	<p>We will comply with the principles of transparency, equal treatment/non-discrimination and proportionality.</p> <p>To do this a separate procurement team, one which does not include individuals who have been involved in any pre tender engagement or in the development of the in house solution, will be set up and all members of the bid assessment team will sign a declaration of impartiality which, will include a confidentiality agreement that will safeguard against the misuse or the perception of misuse for any commercially sensitive information.</p> <p>All decisions will be expedient, fair, transparent, and subject to oversight by the NWL Charges Steering Group who are independent of the water directorate. All contracts will be awarded in accordance with the NWL financial procurement rules; Investment Authorisation Committee up to £5million, Northumbrian Water Limited Board up to £10 million and Northumbrian Water Limited Group Board above £10 million.</p> <p>Our governance procedures will be in accordance with the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)</p>
Contract Award	<p>Each contract award will be externally audited against this document (Bid Assessment Framework) and a report will be issued to all bidders and to Ofwat if they require. The procurement team are subject to internal audit and external audit with the findings reported to the NWL Audit Committee who assure that the integrity of NWLs regulatory reporting systems.</p>
Communication of Decision	<p>All Communications will be in accordance with OJEU procedure.</p> <p>Feedback will be provide to all bidders regarding the reasons for acceptance or rejection of their bid.</p> <p>As with all NWL contracts we will have a 10 day standstill period after the contract award date where we can accept any queries, challenges or complaints, should you consider that the bid has not been appraised in accordance with the framework.</p> <p>If you have a complaint or a challenge then firstly contact Steve Crake Head of Procurement (email: Steve.Crake@nwl.co.uk) who will acknowledge your issue within 2 weeks. To escalate the issue please contact Graham Southall NWL Commercial director (Graham.Southall@nwl.co.uk)</p>

DEMAND MANAGEMENT – PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The NWL forward plan for demand management is contained in the Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) this covers the forecasts and the options to the end of planning period which is the year 2040.

The options for demand management are presented in the table below. A further breakdown showing the activities in each option are shown in appendix A

Table 4: Demand Management options for each water resource zone
Source: Northumbrian water and Essex and Suffolk Market Information

Water Resource Zone (WRZ)	Option Name	Type of Option	Planned Scheme Start Date	Total Planning Period* indicative option cost (NPV) (£000s)
Kielder	Leakage	Leakage Control	2017/18	£242,456.36
Kielder	Enhanced Water Efficiency	Household Water Efficiency	2020/21	£3,474.42
Berwick	Leakage	Leakage Control	2017/18	£11,133.83
Berwick	Enhanced Water Efficiency	Household Water Efficiency	2020/21	£29.13
Blyth – Suffolk	Leakage	Leakage Control	2017/18	£7,141.81
Blyth - Suffolk	Enhanced Water Efficiency	Household Water Efficiency	2020/21	£92.91
Essex	Leakage	Leakage Control	2017/18	£9,208.30
Essex	Enhanced Water Efficiency	Household Water Efficiency	2020/21	£3,763.62
Hartismere	Leakage	Leakage Control	2017/18	£6121.56
Hartismere	Enhanced Water Efficiency	Household Water Efficiency	2020/21	£58.08
Northern Central	Leakage	Leakage Control	2017/18	£14,283.63
Northern Central	Enhanced Water Efficiency	Household Water Efficiency	2020/21	£488.98

As mentioned earlier we currently don't have the need for any demand management interventions and we would only seek offers when we have a known or forecast deficit. However, we currently have a procurement strategy for all of the demand management activities for now and for the future. This strategy will need to be resourced by in house and third party suppliers. Therefore we will have tendering options for suppliers throughout the planning period. The dates for the third party activities are outlined below.

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Third Party Contracts

Table 5: Third party Contracts for Demand Management

Activity	Leakage/Household water efficiency	Location	Contractor	Date of renewal	Extension Available	Subject to UCR
Mains Renewal	Leakage	North East	Fastflow Pipeleine Solution	31/3/2021	Further 3 years available	Yes
Mains Renewal	Leakage	Suffolk	T4	31/3/2021	Further 3 years available	Yes
Noise Loggers (Supply)	Leakage	Company Wide	Primayer	28/2/2019	No Option	Yes
Home Retrofits	Household water efficiency	Essex and Suffolk	WSP	31/12/2018	No Option	Yes
Home Retrofits	Household water efficiency	North East	Cenergist	31/1/2019	No Option	Below Threshold
School education visits	Household water efficiency	Company Wide	Gibber Theatre Limited	30/6/2018	No Option	Below Threshold

Where applicable the contracts currently follow the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.

By following the UCR 2016 we are obliged to adhere to the key principles, which include obligations to ensure transparency, equal treatment/non-discrimination for all potential bidders and proportionality

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Name	Link
Water resources Market Information (NWL)	https://www.nwl.co.uk/your-home/environment/water-resources-market-information.aspx
Water resources Market Information(E&S)	https://www.eswater.co.uk/your-home/water-resources-market-information.aspx
Water resources Management Plan (NWL)	https://www.nwl.co.uk/your-home/environment/current-WRMP.aspx
Water resources Management Plan (E&S)	https://www.eswater.co.uk/your-home/current-WRMP.aspx
NWL Financial Procurement rules	https://www.nwl.co.uk/business/tender-process.aspx
Delivering Water 2020: Our Final Methodology for the 2019 price review Appendix 8 Company bid assessment frameworks – the principles	https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/price-review/2019-price-review-final-methodology/pr19-final-methodology/

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

APPENDIX A – DEMAND MANAGEMENT OPTION DETAILS

WRZ	Leakage reduction	Total Planning Period* indicative option cost (NPV) (£000s)	Activities included in option											
			Activity 1			Activity 2			Activity 3			Activity 4		
			Title	In house contractor	Quantity for planning period	Title	In house contractor	Quantity for planning period	Title	In house contractor	Quantity for planning period	Title	In house contractor	Quantity for planning period
Kielder	15%	£242,456.36	Mains replacement	Contractor	2,380km	Additional Leakage Technicians	In-House	49	Noise loggers	Contractor	19,800 units	Pressure Management	In-House	50 PRV Installations
Berwick	15%	£11,133.83	Mains replacement	Contractor	20km	Additional Leakage Technicians	In-House	1	Noise loggers	Contractor	200 units	n/a		
Blyth	15%	£7,141.81	Mains replacement	Contractor	55km	Additional Leakage Technicians	In-House	1	Noise loggers	Contractor	470 units	Pressure Management	In-House	2 PRV installations
Essex	15%	£9,208.30	Mains replacement	Contractor	2,230km	Additional Leakage Technicians	In-House	21	Noise loggers	Contractor	18,195 units	Pressure Management	In-House	82 PRV installations
Hartismere	15%	£6121.56	Mains replacement	Contractor	50km	Additional Leakage Technicians	In-House	1	Noise loggers	Contractor	400 units	Pressure Management	In-House	2 PRV installations
Northern Central	15%	£14,283.63	Mains replacement	Contractor	115km	Additional Leakage Technicians	In-House	1	Noise loggers	Contractor	935 units	Pressure Management	In-House	4 PRV installations

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

WRZ	Total Planning Period* indicative option cost (NPV) (£000s)	Activities included in option								
		Activity 1			Activity 2			Activity 3		
		Title	In house contractor	Quantity per year	Title	In house contractor	Quantity per year	Title	In house contractor	Quantity per year
Kielder	£3,474.42	Home retrofits	Inhouse	17837	Home retrofits	Contractor	49	School education visits	Contractor	19,800 units
Berwick	£29.13	Home retrofits	Inhouse	158	Home retrofits	Contractor	1	School education visits	Contractor	200 units
Blyth	£92.91	Home retrofits	Inhouse	278	Home retrofits	Contractor	1	School education visits	Contractor	470 units
Essex	£3,763.62	Home retrofits	Inhouse	10021	Home retrofits	Contractor	21	School education visits	Contractor	18,195 units
Hartismere	£58.08	Home retrofits	Inhouse	170	Home retrofits	Contractor	1	School education visits	Contractor	400 units
Northern Central	£488.98	Home retrofits	Inhouse	1537	Home retrofits	Contractor	1	School education visits	Contractor	935 units

APPENDIX B – PREQUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Compliance with NWL Procurement Policies

Sustainability: We are committed to ethically procuring goods, works and services in a way that generates maximum value, not only to our organisation but also to society and the economy, while enhancing the environment. We are firmly rooted within the communities we serve. It is important to us that we demonstrate our responsibility to the economic and social wellbeing of our customers and employees and enhance the environment and communities we serve. By embedding sustainable procurement practices, we will maximise the value we bring to our stakeholders and customers, now and in the future. Our sustainable procurement policy includes a suppliers charter, this informs suppliers of NWLs expectations as we work together to drive sustainability.

In accordance with our Sustainable Procurement Policy, should you be successful in this tender you will be required to subscribe to the CIPs Sustainability Index.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement: As a supplier to NWL you recognise the value that different backgrounds, experiences and perspectives can bring to the business and we oppose all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination or victimisation. To that end the purpose of this policy is to ensure equality and fairness for everyone in our employment and those we come into contact with as we do business.

Modern Slavery Act: NWL would like to ensure that suppliers and their associated supply chain provide suitable working conditions for their employees in terms of:

- Working conditions are safe and working hours reasonable
- Fair wages are paid
- Child labour is not used
- Discrimination is not practised
- Slavery and human trafficking is not taking place
- Comply fully with the requirements of the Modern Slavery Act

Corporate Governance: The mission of NWL is to be the national leader in the provision of Sustainable Water and Waste Water Services. We provide essential services in the areas in which we work, we accept the high levels of responsibility which this carries. To help us meet these wide ranging responsibilities, we have adopted a Code of Conduct <insert link>. We will endeavour to adhere to the Code in all of our activities and we will monitor our performance in this respect.

As part of this Code, we require our suppliers to act ethically, lawfully, with integrity, with honesty and fairness in accordance with our Code of Conduct and the Bribery Act 2010.

Information Security

Do you have ISO27001 certification in all the locations where any NWL data is processed? If not, do you have any alternative certification e.g. SAS70 or PCIDSS. Please provide details of your information security measures.

Data Protection

Bidders need to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation 2014.

Financial Rating

NWL will assess your financial standing and add a score based upon known credit agency scores rounded to the nearest 10. We will use the same methodology for all suppliers so if we cannot get all scores from one agency then we will use the next priority for all assessments.

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Methodology in order of Priority:

- Dun & Bradstreet
- Equifax
- Internal Assessment of financial accounts

Before any award decision is made a full review of the financial standings of the preferred bidder will be carried out. NWL reserve the right to exclude any bidder if any financial concerns are highlighted.

Accreditation

We expect bidders to have the following accreditation

- BS EN ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard or equivalent.
- BS OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Standard or equivalent.
- ISO14001 Environmental Management or equivalent.

References

Please provide details for a reference that you consider to be appropriate in demonstrating your ability and suitability to carry out this contract

Grounds for Mandatory rejection

1. conspiracy within the meaning of section 1 or 1A of the Criminal Law Act 1977(1) or article 9 or 9A of the Criminal Attempts and Conspiracy (Northern Ireland) Order 1983(2) where that conspiracy relates to participation in a criminal organisation as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA on the fight against organised crime(3);
2. corruption within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889(4) or section 1 of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906(5);
3. the common law offence of bribery;
4. bribery within the meaning of sections 1, 2 or 6 of the Bribery Act 2010(6), or section 113 of the Representation of the People Act 1983(7);
5. where the offence relates to fraud affecting the European Communities' financial interests as defined by Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities(8):—
 - the common law offence of cheating the Revenue;
 - the common law offence of conspiracy to defraud;
 - fraud or theft within the meaning of the Theft Act 1968(9), the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(10), the Theft Act 1978(11) or the Theft (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(12);
 - fraudulent trading within the meaning of section 458 of the Companies Act 1985(13), article 451 of the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986(14) or section 993 of the Companies Act 2006(15);
 - fraudulent evasion within the meaning of section 170 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979(16) or section 72 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994(17);
 - an offence in connection with taxation in the European Union within the meaning of section 71 of the Criminal Justice Act 1993(18);
 - destroying, defacing or concealing of documents or procuring the execution of a valuable security within the meaning of section 20 of the Theft Act 1968(19) or section 19 of the Theft Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(20);
 - fraud within the meaning of section 2, 3 or 4 of the Fraud Act 2006(21); or
 - the possession of articles for use in frauds within the meaning of section 6 of the Fraud Act 2006, or the making, adapting, supplying or offering to supply articles for use in frauds within the meaning of section 7 of that Act;
 - in section 41 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008(22); or

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER LIMITED

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

- in Schedule 2 to that Act where the court has determined that there is a terrorist connection;
 - any offence under sections 44 to 46 of the Serious Crime Act 2007(23) which relates to an offence covered by subparagraph (f);
 - money laundering within the meaning of sections 340(11) and 415 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002(24);
 - an offence in connection with the proceeds of criminal conduct within the meaning of section 93A, 93B or 93C of the Criminal Justice Act 1988(25) or article 45, 46 or 47 of the Proceeds of Crime (Northern Ireland) Order 1996(26);
 - an offence under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004(27);
 - an offence under section 59A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003(28);
 - an offence under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009(29);
 - an offence in connection with the proceeds of drug trafficking within the meaning of section 49, 50 or 51 of the Drug Trafficking Act 1994(30); or
 - any other offence within the meaning of Article 57(1) of the Public Contracts Directive—
 - as defined by the law of any jurisdiction outside England and Wales and Northern Ireland; or
 - created, after the day on which these Regulations were made, in the law of England and Wales or Northern Ireland.
6. The obligation to exclude an economic operator also applies where the person convicted is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of that economic operator or has powers of representation, decision or control in the economic operator.
7. Mandatory and discretionary exclusions for non-payment of taxes etc
8. An economic operator shall be excluded from participation in a procurement procedure where—
- the contracting authority is aware that the economic operator is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions; and
 - the breach has been established by a judicial or administrative decision having final and binding effect in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of any of the jurisdictions of the United Kingdom.
9. Contracting authorities may exclude an economic operator from participation in a procurement procedure where the contracting authority can demonstrate by any appropriate means that the economic operator is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions.
10. Points (8) and (9) cease to apply when the economic operator has fulfilled its obligations by paying, or entering into a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the taxes or social security contributions due, including, where applicable, any interest accrued or fines.