Stour Valley Park – Consultant Brief

Introduction
This brief sets out the requirements for a consultant to develop a strategy document and framework to realise our aspiration of a Stour Valley Park.

Background
The Stour Valley Park is a concept to improve recreational, health and wellbeing and wildlife opportunities in the river corridor between the National Trust Estate at Kingston Lacy and Christchurch Harbour.

The project will straddle the valley of the River Stour which forms the boundary between the two new unitary authority areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) and Dorset. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole covering 161km² is the 9th largest conurbation in England by population size. BCP and the Bournemouth Parks Foundation (BPF) has successfully bid for £700K of Future Parks Accelerator funding (National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) & the National Trust (NT)) to enable us to make our parks fit for the 21st Century. Stour Valley Park will be an integral part of those proposals.

Project Vision
The Stour Valley Park Partnership was formed in 2017 (see brochure¹) with the National Trust (NT), Natural England (NE), RSPB, S. E. Dorset Local Authorities, Environment Agency, Bournemouth Water, Wessex Water, Bournemouth University (BU), Stour Catchment Initiative, Bournemouth Parks Foundation (BPF), Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT), Dorset Local Nature Partnership (LNP) and Public Health Dorset.

The Partnership recognises that there is a major opportunity to add c. 2000 hectares of river valley corridor to the portfolio of sites in the conurbation. A step change in access opportunities to green space will be afforded by this project for all communities with a range of gateways planned (including cafes, visitor centres, countryside health hubs and ‘new wave’ libraries); all linking to existing greenways and parks within the area. It is also an opportunity to do things differently with a coordinated approach to audience development, opportunities to engage with the natural environment, sustainable transport initiatives, intervention at scale on health and wellbeing issues and the green economy.
Progress

The proposals developed will form part of a new joint venture - The Future Parks Accelerator (FPA); supported and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), the National Trust (NT) and the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). The aim of the FPA is to use the combined investment, grants and NT in-house expertise to support ambitious projects that will transform the way public parks and green spaces in the UK are managed and funded for the future.

The FPA bid will shorten the strategic development of the Park from five to just two years and make the most of developers’ contributions within the conurbation which can be channelled as mitigation funding into the Park. It is conceivable that the Park could eventually offer high quality greenspace resource to an additional 1 million extra visits annually by local residents (many of whom currently do not have a back garden).

The process of undertaking the assessment is already underway with research, discussion and comparator site visits. This work will help inform the consultant, but the brief will also be informed by the professional advice of the consultant.

The Appointment

The Stour Valley Partnership wish to appoint a person with experience in working with a wide range of public and private landowners, statutory organisations and local government.

Key Tasks

1. To gather all pertinent information relating to the key themes in the Stour Valley Brochure including:

   o Heritage & the Environment
   o Housing & Development
   o Transport & the Economy
   o Health and Wellbeing
   o Voluntary and Charitable Sector

   with reference to:

   o Local plans and strategies
   o Rights of way, public open space and public access land
   o Development proposals e.g. gravel extraction and urban development (industrial, transport and housing)
   o Land ownership (where information is available)
   o Phase I Habitat survey data (where available), also identifying information gaps and broadly categorising land use in such instances
   o Comparative sites (AONBs, etc.).
2. To produce an agreed Strategy Document and Business Plan which will clearly lay out the way forward for the creation of the Park by 2021/22.

3. To work with our GIS support officer and organise the production of presentable maps/plans of the area to include:
   - Land Designations
   - The current access and development position
   - Potential future access and development position – including gaps in data (e.g. habitat surveys required, land ownership.)

4. To develop an Implementation Framework and prioritise a series of actions to implement it, retaining the flexibility to respond to new funding and project opportunities.

5. To develop and adopt a Communications Plan that will build on the vision for the Stour Valley Park and position and maintain it in stakeholders’ and others’ minds; this will include public consultation.

6. To work with the Partnership Board and Working Group to develop the preferred governance structures for the Regional Park (giving consideration to other comparative models AONBs etc.) and on its future resourcing.

7. To be cognisant of the broader aim of producing an updated Green Infrastructure Strategy for the BCP Council.

Supporting Information
The following documents are available to the consultants:


Further information:
Contact: Mark Holloway [mark.holloway@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mark.holloway@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)
Telephone: 01202 451513
Timing

Deadline for your proposals **Tuesday 7th January 2020**

Start date Monday 27th January 2020

Initial report 1st September 2020

Final Report 31 January 2021

Manage inclusion into Draft BCP Green Infrastructure Strategy and Green Infrastructure Business Plan 31st March 2021

Seminars and Learning (Finish Date) 31st May 2021

**Project Management & Monitoring**

The Client is BCP Council / Bournemouth Parks Foundation on behalf of the Stour Valley Park Partnership

**Your written proposals**

The Consultant’s proposals and budget should be submitted to be received by the client’s representative by midnight on **Tuesday 7th January 2020**

It should be sent to info@bournemouthparksfoundation.org.uk

Your submission must include details of the following:

- Consultancy background, experience, CV and references
- Sub-consultancy team, CVs and references
- Particular skills and expertise that you and your team would bring to this project
- Summary of project proposal/approach
- Methodology for the tasks
- Work tasks to be undertaken
- Outline timetable for project
- Your fees showing a breakdown of costs (fees, expenses etc)
- Allocation of tasks to sub-consultants – with days and day rate indicated
- Additional costs/expenses (for example promotional materials for public consultation)
- Invoicing arrangements – expected fee payment schedule
- Evidence of insurance in place – professional indemnity and public liability
IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE:

❖ The maximum fee to completion is £50k inclusive of your associates’ fees, materials and expenses and VAT. Submissions exceeding this amount will not be considered.
❖ A scoring matrix to favour quality of application over price will be used to help the client to determine the appointment.

Publication

All reports should be presented in appropriate formats with photographs, illustrations and tables as required.

Files suitable for loading on to a website will also be required. Edited summary reports may be required, in both hard copy and web-ready forms.

Copyright and confidentiality

The copyright of any documents produced lies with the Stour Valley Park Partnership.