



## **Opportunity to Tender**

### **Alston Moor Greenprint Feasibility Study into Community Food Growing and Local Food Enterprise**

**You are invited to tender for a self-employed contract to deliver a comprehensive feasibility study into community food growing on Alston Moor.**

**We are looking for a consultant experienced in both developing community food growing spaces and local food enterprise with specialist knowledge of growing at high altitude and the installation of renewable energy sources to heat covered growing spaces.**

**This feasibility study will fall under the current Alston Moor Greenprint Project.**

This document gives an overview of the project and sets out the aims, areas of activity, expected outcomes and timescale of the project.

#### **Alston Moor Greenprint – Background**

The purpose of the Alston Moor 'Greenprint' project is to develop and begin to implement a long term low carbon pathway for a specific community that has the potential to be replicated as an effective model for low carbon living in other rural communities.

It is managed by Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS), an experienced environmental charity, which has a well-proven track record of working with rural communities and supporting low-carbon solutions and good practice. The Alston Moor Greenprint project builds on the existing relationship between CAfS and the Alston Moor Partnership (AMP), which was responsible for the piloting of several greener transport options and the development of community owned renewable energy in the locality under the Sustain Eden Project.

The Alston Moor Greenprint has funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for three years, commencing in November 2016. The funding enables CAfS to provide a dedicated manager to work with community groups, local authorities, and other potential funding bodies to develop and implement appropriate actions evidenced through community consultation which can be implemented at a grass roots level to benefit the community while also fitting into the long term strategic aims of partner organisations working in the area.

We have worked closely with Alston Moor Partnership in the development of the Community Plan and community consultation and engagement shows strong evidence of a need and desire for local food growing scheme(s) on Alston Moor.

This feasibility brief has two key aspects:

1. Accessible collective community growing space, ideally linked to a community facility with café or kitchen
2. Local Food Growing Enterprise which can provide a profitable business model with opportunities for training, apprenticeships, jobs and viable product

Both schemes have the potential to be linked to renewable heated growing spaces and at a later date a micro anaerobic digester output.

We have secured funding to run a feasibility study into both these schemes and need an experienced consultant to deliver this for us.

## **Objectives**

To deliver a detailed, clear, illustrated feasibility study into both schemes with preferred options, risks and priorities

We would ask you to cover the following within the study:

### **1. Collective Community Growing Space**

- Identify potential accessible land suitable for the development of a Community Growing Space in a centralised area of Alston Town where the community can grow their own vegetables, fruit and produce for domestic use and / or for use at an adjacent community facility, kitchen or café.
- Give consideration to how this could link into the current community garden and accessible greenspaces dotted around the town
- Consult with landowners to establish whether any of these plots could be used for this purpose on a long term lease basis, as a private land sale, as a donation or transfer of ownership to the community etc.
- Undercover heated growing – options for installation of renewable heat sources in poly tunnels
- Management model and structure – practicalities of the long term maintenance of, site safety and access issues
- Planning permissions and requirements
- Development costs
- Timescales
- Funding options
- Identify potential site visits to successfully established schemes where learning can be replicated

## **2. Local Food Growing Enterprise**

- Consult with farmers and landowners on Alston Moor and any potential surrounding areas to identify any suitable areas of land which could be developed into a local food growing enterprise, consideration will need to be given to accessibility, gradient and aspect, quality of soil, contamination, flooding etc.
- Establish whether these plots could be used for this purpose on a long term lease basis or as a private sale
- Identify potential for types of enterprise – this could range from a crop rotation box scheme to single crop production specific to the area with a clearly defined sales market
- Develop a business and management plan based on the preferred models
- Planning requirements
- Heating undercover growing spaces using renewable energy sources
- Product sales and marketing
- Initial set up and ongoing costs
- Funding – grants, loans, crowd funding, business support etc.
- Timescales
- Potential for training, apprenticeships, jobs creation, additionality
- Any potential for waste recycling, reuse, bi product
- Identify potential site visits to successfully established schemes where learning can be replicated

### **Audience**

The final feasibility study will be presented in an accessible and visually exciting format at an open meeting and made available in electronic format to the CAfS Greenprint Manager, Alston Moor Partnership, Alston Moor Business Association, Local Authority Representatives, Relevant Steering Groups and interested community members including the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

### **CAfS / Alston Moor Greenprint Involvement**

Upfront information and guidance will be provided by the Greenprint Project Manager who can offer local knowledge into known potential sites and relevant contact details.

Guidance will also be given on the order of approach required and any sensitivities that need to be taken into consideration.

The Greenprint Manager will be available to answer questions and offer support throughout the feasibility study process and with prior notice to assist with and attend site visits.

Over and above this support we expect the consultant to manage all aspects of the delivery outlined in this document limiting the support needed from CAfS as far as possible. This

includes, for example, liaising with landowners and others once initial contact has been made.

### **Ownership**

The final feasibility study and all research pertaining to it will belong to the CAFS Alston Moor Greenprint Project

### **Budget**

A maximum budget of £5,000 inclusive of transport, equipment and VAT.

### **Timescales**

The Feasibility Study can begin as soon as possible in the New Year and run between January and April with the ideal being potential to begin site development on at least one of the schemes as early as late spring / early summer 2019. **Please do consider the location of the area and that this study will be conducted during the winter months.**

### **Your Submission**

The deadline for submissions is **3pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018** by email to [office@cafs.org.uk](mailto:office@cafs.org.uk) or by hand to CAFS Office, Eden Rural Foyer, Old London Road, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8ET.

Please get in touch if you are interested but unable to provide a quote in this timeframe.

When submitting your quotation:

- provide a clear methodology outlining how you will carry out the work
- tell us briefly why this work excites and motivates you
- let us know why we should have confidence that you can complete the study
- detail your experience of carrying out similar work. Please either send us some samples of or links to your previous work. Either within the context of consultant or in your practical delivery of local food growing schemes
- We would also be interested to know if you/your company are involved in activities that deliver social or environmental outcomes and in what capacity, briefly
- Please specify any commitments that may delay the start of the contract
- Provide a single quote to carry out the work, including VAT, transport and use of all equipment required. Please provide a daily rate and estimation of days on each element. If successful you will need to provide us with evidence of your own public liability and professional indemnity insurance policy

Submissions should be no more than 4 sides of A4 in equivalent of Arial 12 point font.

Please contact Roe Baker T: 01768 210276 E: roe@cafs.org.uk with any questions or to arrange a time to talk (NB working days are Tuesday to Friday only).

## 1. Application Process & Selection Criteria

Selection of the successful candidate will be undertaken by representatives of CAfS and will be in accordance with the CAfS Procurement Policy. We will evaluate your submission on the following criteria:

- Methodology, motivation & empathy for the project - 30%
- Track Record: quality and impact of previous work (Including clarity of message, experience, level of influence, style) - 30%
- Capacity: your availability and ability to commit to delivery within the outlined timescale - 20%
- Price: including VAT, transport and use of all equipment - 10%
- Environmental sustainability: evidence that you or your company take steps to support social and environmental outcomes - 10%

We will contact you by 5pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018, though please be aware that this may only be to arrange a further discussion of your submission.

