

Questions asked with Responses

Retail & Town Centre Uses Study

(Reference D000078)

RESPONSES TO QUERIES BEFORE QUESTIONS DEADLINE

email procurement@tendringdc.gov.uk if your question has not been included.

Listed below are the questions asked with our responses:-

1. Please can you confirm the budget for this work. The Government Tender site indicates £30,000, however for the number of towns to be looked at and the extent of original survey work required this appears to be a very limited budget.

Answer

The amount quoted is the minimum we would expect this work to cost. It is for the bidding company to evaluate a realistic price for the work to be undertaken.

2. Can the Council confirm the number of Local Plan representations received and require reviewing in respect of retail and leisure policies?

Answer

In relation to the detailed town centre policies, the Council received 15 representations. However, the consultancy will need to review the representations in relation to the vision and objectives which amount to a further 15 representations.

3. Can the Council confirm that other town centre uses relates to leisure uses i.e. it excludes office/hotels etc. from the NPPF annex for main town centre uses?

Answer

I can confirm offices and hotels can be excluded from the study.

4. Do the Council require the study to be supported by Business Surveys?

Answer

Yes. The approach, extent and methodology can be outlined in the tender.

5. Consultation is identified – apart from those covered as part of the identified shopper and in centre surveys, are there any other groups/key stakeholder(s) who the consultant would need to liaise with? Can the Council confirm there is no need to undertake a public consultation in relation to its findings?

Answer

In relation to Clacton, there are approximately 16 external and 12 internal stakeholders who would need to be consulted. There are regular meetings organised with the stakeholders at which the consultancy could table questions, present their ideas/proposals and receive feedback. In terms of the remaining five defined town centres, the internal stakeholders would be mostly the same stakeholders as Clacton with two to three substitutes; there would be approximately five external stakeholders to be consulted for each town centre. A list of stakeholders will be provided to the successful consultancy.

In relation to the final reports, the consultancy is not required to undertake a formal public consultation exercise.

6. We note that the Request for Tender states that the Council will 'also require a more specific and detailed 'health check' for Clacton town centre and later specifies the requirements of the health check for Clacton town centre. However, under the 'essential outcomes' list, the Council also refers to the requirement for advice in respect of the district's six defined town centres (Clacton, Dovercourt, Harwich, Frinton/Walton, Manningtree and Brightlingsea). Could the Council please clarify whether health checks for the other five defined centres are also required as part of the commission?

Answer

A health check is only required for Clacton town centre.