

## Appendix 2

# Tender for Local Green Space Assessment

Revision	Issue Date	Issue Status	Changes Incorporated
1	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2014	Draft	TC comments incorporated
2	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2014	Draft awaiting Cabinet approval	

### Overview

This is a request for a detailed costed proposal to be submitted to the Cheltenham Borough Council Planning Policy Team to assist us with a project to identify suitable candidates for designating land as 'Local Green Space'

### Background

- 1.1 We are seeking detailed and costed proposals to be submitted to the Council Planning Policy team for short term assistance in facilitating community involvement in assessing the potential for designating areas of the Borough as 'Local Green Space'.
- 1.2 Local Green Space is a planning policy designation which can be included within Development Plan Documents. The designation is designed to allow to local communities to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances.
- 1.3 Identifying land as Local Green Space must therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.
- 1.4 At a meeting of Cheltenham Borough Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2014 agreeing the Pre Submission Joint Core Strategy strategic Development Plan Document the Council resolved to:

"Designate Local Green Spaces where appropriate as part of the Cheltenham Local Plan. We would particularly wish to evaluate the potential for Local Green Space designation in Leckhampton and North West Cheltenham, where green areas of particular local significance are known to exist."

## Consultancy Requirements

- 1.5 National Planning Policy requires that the designation of Local Green Space should be driven by local communities who identify areas of particular importance to them. Therefore in identifying appropriate areas for consideration we there should be both a 'bottom up' (where local communities bring areas to the attention of the Council) as well as a 'top down' (where the council proposes areas to designate to communities) approach. It is also important that this discussion with communities takes place at a Borough wide level, rather than in a piecemeal way where some communities may not be aware that they could identify land to benefit from the designation and so could be left out.
- 1.6 We are seeking proposals to be submitted to the Council Planning Policy Team to assist us with the consultation .
- 1.7 Cheltenham Borough Council Planning Policy Officers have access to a Local Green Space Toolkit. We would seek to approach local communities and Parish Councils with the purpose of determining whether they feel that there are areas which they would wish to see designated in this way; and whether these areas when considered with the aid of the toolkit are suitable for such a designation.
- 1.8 Tenders will normally be considered for work totalling approximately £5,000 - £6,000; and must not in any event cost more than £10,000. Tenders will be considered and awarded at the Council's discretion and we are under no obligation to choose the lowest bidder. Successful submissions will provide the highest quality and most suitable (in our view) package of assistance to the communities and ourselves. There is intended to be flexibility through negotiation in the tender process to allow for maximum cost efficiency.
- 1.9 As a rough structure to guide this work we would be looking for:
  - Early engagement with local community groups, parish councils etc. to listen to their views on which areas of green space they deemed special and could benefit from this protection. The consultants would capture any ideas which the community group already had on this topic, and then present some maps and suggestions for areas for consideration. If the local group agreed that this would be worthwhile, the consultants could assist with the completion of the toolkit.
  - The consultants would then generate a report capturing the outcomes of the events and which areas the groups considered and whether the community felt there were any strong candidates for designation. The report would include outputs from the toolkit.
  - The planning policy team would at the same time be assessing development needs which the Cheltenham Plan would be required to deliver and likely / necessary locations to meet those needs.
  - The planning policy team would also meanwhile be evaluating which areas were already designated or protected in some other way – such as playing pitches, areas currently in Green Belt/ AONB etc. where designations such as Local Green Space would not increase protection.
  - After this sifting process by planning officers, the Cheltenham Borough

Council Cabinet could then be presented with a list of potential areas that should be further investigated with a view to designation in the forthcoming Cheltenham Plan, including further dialogue with communities wherever required.