

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

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, leakage demand management services or bioresources 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.

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Northumbrian Water Limited
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NORTHUMBRIAN WATER BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 About this Bid Assessment Framework?

Northumbrian Water Ltd (NWL) actively encourages bids from any third party that would bring innovation and allow us to identify more efficient ways of delivering water resources, demand management, leakage services and / or bioresources. We have published the water resources and bioresources market information on our website.

Through this Bid Assessment Framework, we are looking to promote innovation which will allow us to deliver services more efficiently for the benefit of our customers. This will ultimately mean a reduced cost for customers.

Ofwat wants to encourage a greater bidding market between appointed water company in-house solutions and third parties. The third parties can be independents or incumbents from outside the area.

Ofwat requires 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.

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

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/delivering-water-2020-final-methodology-2019-price-review-appendix-8-company-bid-assessment-framework-principles/>

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/bioresources-bid-assessment-framework-final-guidance/>

NWL will keep its Bid Assessment Framework up to date and publicly available, via its website.

1.2 Contact NWL

NWL are keen to engage and hear from third parties in relation to Bioresources, water resources, demand management and leakage services.

Anyone wishing to work with NWL can obtain further information via our website and get in touch with any queries or ideas for consideration, in relation to this Bid Assessment Framework, via our procurement mailbox: Procurement@nwl.co.uk

Any ideas or submissions of interest to work with NWL will be evaluated in accordance with the terms of this Framework or be included within a specific competition depending on the number of interested third parties and proposals which are submitted.

2. NWL Procurement Policy

2.1 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Procurement within the UK Water Industry is regulated by the Utilities Contract Regulations 2016 (UCR) and NWL is required to comply with these regulations. It mandates that a competitive tendering process is followed for the procurement of all goods, works and services at values above specific thresholds.

The purpose of NWL's Procurement Policy is to set out Northumbrian Water Limited's (NWL) Policy for the procurement of all goods, works and services, to ensure that NWL achieves best value for money for our stakeholders and in doing so comply with all relevant legislation and

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internal business processes.

This Procurement Policy applies to all NWL employees who procure goods, works or services for and on behalf of NWL from third-party organisations. This Policy must be read and considered in conjunction with the NWL Financial Approval Rules.

Compliance with this Policy and all associated processes and guidelines is mandatory.

2.2 PROCUREMENT PRINCIPLES

NWL has established the following overarching procurement principles

1. **Best Value** - Obtaining best value is not about buying cheaply or cutting costs. It is about achieving an optimum balance between the cost and quality or performance of every purchase. Competition, appropriate to the value and complexity of the works, goods, and services to be procured, is key to achieving best value. Competition motivates suppliers to improve their efficiency and quality, to reduce costs, thereby ensuring that they innovate and adopt new technology and/or techniques.
2. **Aggregation of Spend** - Where appropriate, similar works, goods and services must be aggregated and tendered together to increase the opportunity for leverage, improves efficiencies and to minimise tender and transaction costs. This is a legislative requirement as it ensures that organisations do not 'unbundle' sourcing events to avoid the Procurement thresholds
3. **Supplier Database** - All suppliers must be approved prior to being used. NWL has an established supplier creation process that requires certain information to be provided and appropriate approval to be given before a vendor can be approved for use. The number of approved suppliers is reviewed periodically, and suppliers removed who have not been used in the past 18 months.
4. **Roles and Responsibilities** - It is the responsibility of the NWL Procurement Team to ensure that this Procurement Policy is published and accessible to all appropriate parties. It is the responsibility of all NWL employees to make sure that their actions comply with it. Compliance with this policy is mandatory and all users are responsible for ensuring that the subject of expenditure meets business requirements, is technically acceptable and are responsible for ensuring this Policy has been complied with and that the appropriate level of financial authorisation is provided in advance of an order or contract being placed with a supplier in accordance with the NWL Financial Approval Rules.
5. **Sustainability** - NWL is committed to sustainable procurement and has embedded processes for procuring works, goods and services that considers social, economic, and environmental considerations. Sustainability is to be considered at each phase of the procurement process through positive engagement and constructive challenge with a focus on the following:
 - Supply chain risk (environmental, labour standards, material scarcity)
 - Sustainable products and renewable sources (reduce, re-use, recycle)
 - Ethical, transparent, fair, and compliant supplier assessment
 - Whole life costing e.g., operating costs, waste, transport, efficiency, disposal
 - Working together with local MSBs and SMEs to support their growth and development
 - Positive social impact in local communities (apprenticeships, social enterprise)
 - Strong supplier relationships supporting the joint development of innovative and creative solutions
 - Promotion of equality and diversity throughout the supply chain
6. **Payment Terms** - NWL standard payment terms are via BACS, 45 days for goods and

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services and 40 days for construction contracts from when a valid and correct invoice is received. Small suppliers may be placed on 14 days subject to certain criteria being met. Payment will only be made for goods and services that have been received, where the invoice quotes the correct purchase order number, and the purchase order has been received in the system.

- 7. Whole Life Costing (Total Cost of Ownership)** - The principle of whole life costing examines more than just the initial unit cost of the item being procured and moves away from making purchasing decisions based purely on 'cheapest is best'. It is particularly important to follow this principle when the life of the item is expected to last several years.
- 8. Specifications and Performance Criteria** - It is essential that standard specifications should be used wherever possible. Specifications as far as possible should be generic and not reference specific brands or trademarks unless essential. They should also be output specifications i.e., stipulate what the works, goods or services are for, and the performance levels required and not dictate how the service should be performed or goods used. Fitness for purpose must be always considered and the avoidance of over/under specification is essential. The specification is to be completed by the Business.
- 9. Best in Class Suppliers** - Through robust selection and award procedures, NWL will appoint and work with the best suppliers in the marketplace. NWL is committed to the principle that all works, goods and services delivered shall be subject to continuous improvement - so that the best suppliers become better.

NWL's policy is to engage suppliers who:

- Deliver best value;
- Have a robust financial standing;
- Have demonstrable health and safety practices;
- Demonstrate a sustainable approach to delivery;
- Respect the communities in which they work;
- Invest in their people; and
- Are creative and willing to share knowledge

10. Collaboration - NWL may from time to time, enter into collaborative procurement arrangements, with other organisations for good, works or services where commercially advantageous supply chain arrangements can be delivered

2.3 GOVERNANCE

Clear and transparent governance is critical to ensure that NWL achieves best overall value. The governance framework for NWL procurement activities includes compliance with the following:

- 1. Financial Approval Rules** - The Financial Approval Rules detail the award and other approval processes for all transactions. All procurement activities must comply with these Rules.
- 2. The Utilities Contract Regulations 2016** - The Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to all procurement, specifically those valued (in aggregation) above the UK thresholds. Failure to comply with the Regulations not only damages NWL's reputation but may also have severe consequences for the business, such as the suspension of contract awards, the setting aside of decisions taken and/or the payment of damages to third parties. To ensure compliance, all above threshold selection and award processes are carried out consistently and are based on objective price/quality criteria that provide a fair, transparent and objective method of evaluation.

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UK Thresholds applied to Utilities (valid from 1st Jan 2022 and inclusive of VAT):

	Goods	Services	Works
Water Sector	£426,955	£426,955	£5,336,937

To apply any threshold value, the total cost of the requirement (and similar requirements), over the planned term must be aggregated. Guidance must be sought from the procurement team.

There are only a small number of general exclusions to the Utilities Contract Regulations (Reg 2) including:

- Contracts for the acquisition of land
- Contracts for services for arbitration or conciliation services
- Contracts for Financial Services
- Contracts for Research and Development which is not exclusively for NWL's benefit and where NWL is not paying for all of the services

If any of the above apply, then the contract is excluded from the regulations

In addition, contract awards may be made without a call for competition in the following circumstances:

- Where tenders have previously been issued but no tenders were received or non-suitable and that the terms of the original contract have not been substantially altered
- If the contract is purely for the purposes of study, research and development which are not for profit and where development costs will not be recovered
- For technical or artistic reasons, or to protect its exclusive rights, can the contract only be performed by one particular supplier
- In extreme urgency brought about by unforeseeable events, it is impossible to comply with the normal timescales for awarding contracts
- For goods contracts only, where the goods are needed to partially replace, or add to, existing goods or an installation where using goods from a new supplier would mean technical incompatibilities or disproportionate technical difficulties in operating or maintaining the goods / installation, Where a contractor is to supply additional works / services not anticipated in the original project and for technical or economic reasons a different contractor cannot provide them without major inconvenience to NWL or they could be provided by a different contractor but they are strictly necessary to allow the current contractor to perform the original contract
- Where a current contract to provide new works are a repetition of the works for which the original contract was awarded
- Where the contract is to be awarded under a framework agreement which was originally awarded to the contractor in accordance with the regulations
- Where a goods contract is for a very short time, available at a very good price, considerably lower than normal market price
- Where a goods contract is taking advantage of a closing down sale or a sale due to the supplier being wound-up or being made bankrupt

Any decision on the applicability of exclusion criteria can only be made by and in consultation with the Procurement Team

- 3. Bribery Act 2010** - NWL will not tolerate any form of bribery and will reject any tender or cancel any contract with a supplier who engages in corrupt or fraudulent practices at any time. This part of NWL Procurement Policy works in conjunction with our policies on fraud, gifts and entertainment as laid out in the NWL Employee Handbook. Sourcing goods, works or services from relatives or close personal friends without disclosure in writing in advance and involvement of the Procurement Team in the sourcing process (irrespective of value) is prohibited. The acceptance of gifts, gratuities or hospitality from a supplier involved in a

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current sourcing process is subject to declaration and approval in advance.

4. **Competition Act 1998** - NWL is committed to open and fair competition. NWL will not enter into any agreement (or other action) that prevents, restricts, or distorts competition nor will we take part in any conduct which amounts to an abuse of a dominant position.
5. **Regulatory Accounting Guidelines - NWL** procurement activities must comply with the Regulatory Accounting Guidelines (RAG5) issued by the UK Water Industry Regulator, Ofwat, concerning all trading arrangements between NWL and internal group companies All proposed framework, contract awards or purchases from any Northumbrian Water group company must be approved by the Head of Procurement in advance.
6. **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** - Where personal data is to be transferred to or received from a potential supplier a Personal Information Assessment (PIA) must be completed in advance. Advice must be sought from the Data Protection Team.
7. **Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA)** - When considering any Non-Disclosure Agreements with suppliers, guidance must be sought from Legal prior to any agreement being signed

2.4 DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

Where a procurement is within the scope of the UCR, suppliers have remedies available to them pursuant to the terms of the UCR as detailed in the regulations.

NWL Standard Contracts are governed by and construed in accordance with English law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts as regards any claim or matter arising under the Contract.

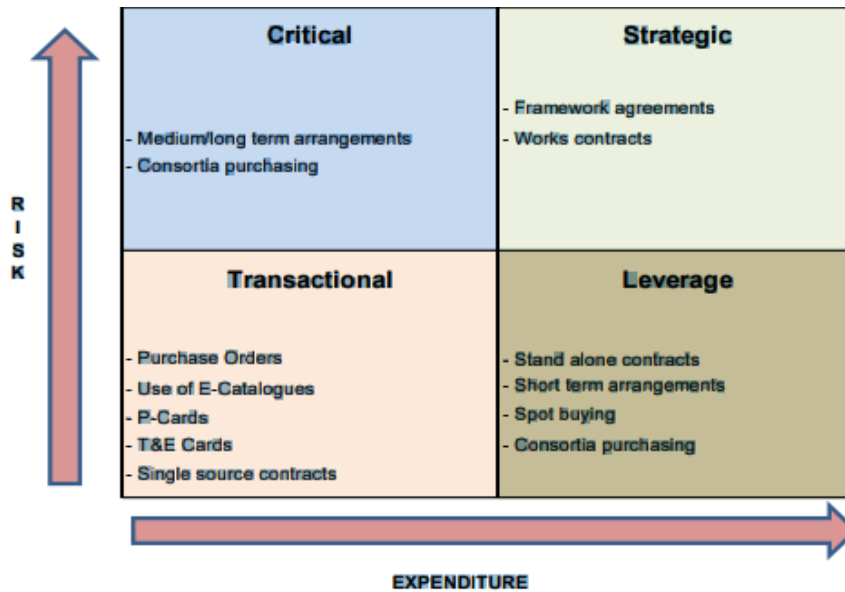
Disputes are initially reviewed by a meeting or discussion between the NWL person named and a representative of the Supplier, held at the reasonable request of either party. If no agreement is reached within ten (10) Working Days of the first request for the meeting or discussion, the dispute shall, at the request of either party, be escalated to the Head of Procurement of NWL and a representative of the Supplier of comparable rank and position. If no agreement is reached within ten (10) Working Days of the request, the dispute is, at the request of either party, escalated to an appropriate director of NWL and a director or equivalent of the Supplier. If no agreement is reached within thirty (30) Working Days after the first request for the meeting or discussion, the dispute may be referred for resolution, provided both parties so agree, the parties shall together refer the dispute to the Centre for Dispute Resolution (“CEDR”) for resolution in accordance with such of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) Procedures offered by the CEDR as the CEDR considers appropriate in all the circumstances. If either party does not agree to such referral either of them may commence legal proceedings as it sees fit.

2.5 Selecting A Procurement Method

NWL’s approach to best practice procurement is based on a ‘category management’ approach, that takes a long-term, holistic view of our demand, specifications, and the market’ to identify the appropriate contract strategy. It uses a resilient, structured strategic sourcing process for the procurement of all goods, works and services.

1. **Sourcing Methodology** - Category management groups goods, works and services into several categories which reflect similar commercial considerations and characteristics. Each category has a dedicated Category Manager within the Procurement Team. Through this category management approach, contract strategies are developed that facilitate the transfer or sharing of risk with NWL and suppliers. We use different approaches to reflect the specific risks in each case. Our high-level approach to how we categorise the various strategies is outlined in the risk and value matrix below:

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2. **Sourcing Thresholds** - The table below summarises the competitive threshold approach to the management of procurement processes and the choice of appropriate ordering mechanism:

	Expenditure Value <small>(excl VAT, not covered by an existing framework agreement)</small>	Lead	Preferred ordering mechanism
Low Value	<£500	Business	Credit Cards (P Card & Fuel Cards)
	< £5,000 Non invoice payments/ compensation payments	Business with AP	Cheque
	<£5,000 Travel & Entertainment	Business	Clarity or T&E Card, T&E only to be utilised where Clarity cannot support requirement
	< £5,000	Business	One or more Quotes - Oracle PO
Medium Value	£5,001 - £50,000	Business	Minimum 3 Quotes – Oracle PO
High Value	£50,001 - £300,000	Procurement led with Business Support	Competitive tender required (Framework or Contract)
Above Threshold	>£300,000 or High Risk (above UK Thresholds – goods and Services)	Procurement led with Business Support	Competitive tender required - Full regulatory compliance (Framework or Contract)

Note - Expenditure is the aggregated value of the total for similar works, goods, and services over the duration of the requirement, considering any provisions for contract extensions.

3. **Low value spend (Below £5000)** A number of low value / low risk procurement approaches are available to the business. These include the following:

- Purchase Orders
- NIPR - Non-Invoice Payment Requests
- T&E Card - Travel and Entertainment Card
- P Card - Purchasing Card

Note - the splitting of Purchase Orders or card transactions to avoid the correct procurement process or authorisation levels is prohibited. Where user requirements are likely to result in repetitive similar purchases the Procurement Team should be informed

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4. Medium value spends (Above £5000 and below £50000) - Where the proposed procurement activity is low risk, Purchase Orders may be raised, following the required level of competition (usually 3 Quotes), and approved in accordance with the Financial Approval Rules. If the user is uncertain as to the level of risk associated with the proposed procurement activity, then discussions should be held in the first instance with the Procurement Team. Where 3 quotes are required, these must be appended to the Requisition for review. The requirement for competition may be waived in certain situations as follows:

- When using an existing framework or contract agreement, subject to their own rules
- Where sole suppliers have exclusive capabilities or rights
- In exceptional market circumstances
- Real emergencies with the potential for adverse effects on customers or serviceability
- Where technical compatibility with existing assets is required and no alternative exists
- In the case of specialist requirements as agreed with the Head of Procurement
- Failure to comply with legal and/or regulatory obligations

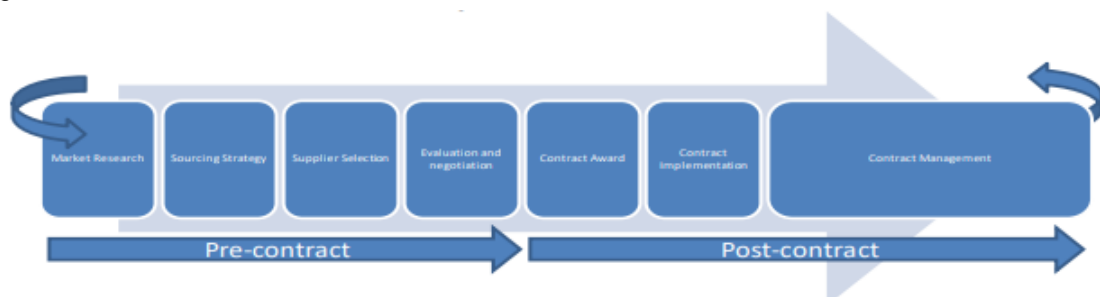
Where competition is waived in accordance with the above, the Oracle system will require Level 2 Manager authorisation of the Purchase Order

5. High Value spend (between £50000 and UK Threshold) - All single requirements or planned multiple requirements over a period, with expenditure exceeding £50,000 and not covered by an existing framework or contract agreement, must be discussed with the Procurement Team in advance, who will determine if a full competitive tender process is required. Note guidance must be sought from the procurement teams to ensure that planned spend is aggregated to ensure compliance with the UK procurement regulations.

6. Above UK Thresholds - All expenditure (except for the exemptions noted in Section 2.3) above UK thresholds must be competitively tendered, advertised via FTS (Find a Tender Service) or using a UK Government approved Vendor Qualification system like Achilles UVDB. Please See Appendix D for further information.

2.6 Frameworks & Contracts

NWL applies a strategic sourcing approach for all high value and above threshold requirements to establish best value framework agreements and contracts. Strategic sourcing describes the whole process, from the initial assessment of a business need through to the end of a contract. This approach formalises the way we gather information and use it to ensure that business needs are met, and best value is achieved. Strategic sourcing requires the analysis of what we buy, from whom, at what price and at what volume. Strategic sourcing is a staged process that brings discipline and procedure into the whole life cycle of a contract. It is summarised in the figure below:



1. Framework Contracts and Contract Agreements - When a framework or contract agreement is used, further competition is not normally necessary, unless specifically provided for in the terms and conditions and rules of engagement of the agreements. Note that NWL Procurement Policy and UK Legislation must be adhered to in the

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normal way before a framework or contract agreement can be authorised. The agreements will contain terms and conditions agreed by NWL's Procurement team. Generally, there are no minimum values or quantities attached to such agreements and no guarantees or workload or volume levels. The procurement of all construction related activities (Works) including capital works consultants (Services) must be through agreed Frameworks. The Procurement Team will decide (in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders) the appropriate sourcing strategy for the category of spend. This will include the lot structure (if required), tender method, evaluation protocol and criteria and the resulting negotiation strategy.

- 2. Minimum Standards** - The Procurement Team, when conducting a Sourcing Process will ensure that minimum standards are met, to ensure that the health and safety of employees, contractors and the public is maintained and that quality works, goods and services are delivered to enhance the customer experience with NWL. These standards will include but not be limited to:
- Quality (standards and/or accreditation).
 - Health and Safety
 - Environmental
 - Insurance
 - Financials
 - Experience
 - Key Staff Retention/Qualification/Experience

Where a supplier is appointed by a member of the business on the basis of three quotations (i.e., no Procurement involvement), that person is expected to ensure that the supplier meets basic standards with regards to the criteria listed above.

- 3. Evaluating Supplier Bids** - Key stakeholders' groups must be established at the beginning of the sourcing process and prior to agreement of the supplier bid evaluation criteria. During the evaluation process key stakeholders should be involved in assessing suppliers' responses based on their technical, commercial and/or business expertise. Details such as suppliers invited to bid and submitted bids must be kept confidential. Key stakeholders must not accept gifts, gratuities or hospitality from a supplier involved in a sourcing process that they are also involved in. Stakeholders must maintain integrity though the procurement process or excuse themselves from the process. NWL Procurement Policy requires that the selection, tender assessment, and award process must remain confidential, in all respects, until the notification of award is made.
- 4. Awarding Contracts** - All tender award criteria must be appropriate, objective, specific to the requirements of the contract and relevant to assessing whether tenders provide best value for money. The quality/price ratio appropriate to the type of work required is established before the tendering process commences. All contract awards are subject to the approval rules set out in the Financial Approval Rules.
- 5. Electronic Sourcing** - Where the Procurement Team are leading a full tender process over £50,000, the Ariba e-sourcing tool is used for the purposes of pre-qualification and tender assessment. The system provides safe and secure access to the exchange of confidential and commercially sensitive information. The Procurement Team will create the "event" in Ariba and will be the single point of contact in NWL who can access the system. Bids cannot be accessed prior to deadline return times and suppliers cannot submit further or revised bids once the event has timed out and closed.
- 6. Security for Due Performance** - Consideration should be given to the use of Performance Bonds or Parent Company Guarantees as security for the due performance of the contract once it has been awarded.

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7. Performance Management - The continuous performance management of our suppliers is essential. Supplier performance is measured and managed on an objective basis throughout the life of a contract. Key performance metrics are developed with suppliers, focusing on the needs of NWL and identifying areas of best practice and/or areas for improvement. Regular reviews are carried out with suppliers to facilitate the continuous improvement process. NWL business Users are required to participate in this process through our corporate Supplier Performance Measurement (SPM) survey

3. Bid Assessment Framework

3.1 OPERATION OF THE FRAMEWORK

NWL conforms with the principles of transparency, equal treatment/non-discrimination, and proportionality, which will govern NWLs approach to its Bid Assessment Framework.

Our procurement approach is based on a number of key principles which are consistent with OFWATS Bioresources bid assessment framework (final guidance – February 2022) and recognise OFWAT's best practice recommendations set out in "Delivering Water 2020" (Final methodology for the 2019 Price review and the "Bid Assessment Framework information note (January 2019)", which demonstrate a clear commitment to transparency, equal opportunity / non-discrimination, and proportionality.

As a Water Utility, we are subject to the Utility Contract Regulations 2016 (UCR) for all procurements within scope and we conduct these procurements in full accordance with the requirements of the UCR. In particular Regulation 11, makes it clear that all procurements relating to:

- (a) *the provision or operation of fixed networks intended to provide a service to the public in connection with the production or distribution of drinking water".*
or
- (b) *the supply of drinking water to such networks"*

are subject to the regulations. Where the relevant threshold values are met, and no exclusions apply, our view is that Bioresources, leakage demand management services will fall with scope.

Northumbrian Water will apply the rules and regulations appropriate to all procurements, in particular Regulation 36 of the UCR states that:

- (1) *Utilities shall treat economic operators equally and without discrimination and shall act in a transparent and proportionate manner*
and
- (2) *the design of the procurement shall not be made with the intention of excluding it from the scope of these Regulations or of artificially narrowing competition".*

To ensure NWL comply with the key principles set out above, 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. 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.

We expect most requirements for bioresources, water supply, demand management and or leakage services will be advertised either via Contracts Finder or via the Achilles Procurement Platform.

For non UCR requirements, suppliers may also put forward opportunities for assessment by

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Northumbrian Water at any time. These potential opportunities (assuming they are not covered by the scope of the UCR) will be assessed to determine that a valid opportunity exists using the same methodology as advertised tender opportunities. These proposals will not trigger a formal procurement process, unless required and will be dealt with of a bi-lateral basis.

All decisions will be expedient, fair, transparent, and subject to oversight by the NWL Charges Steering Group who are independent of the water / wastewater directorate. All contracts will be awarded in accordance with the NWL financial procurement rules; outlined above in section 2.

All award criteria are appropriate, objective, and specific to the requirements and relevant to assessing whether tenders provide best value for money. All requirements, assessment criteria, weightings etc. are published in advance. NWL procurement policy requires that the selection process, tender assessment, and award process remains confidential in all respects, until notification of the award is made.

Overall contract governance is by the Investment Authorisation Committee (IAC), a subgroup of the Executive Leadership Team, which oversees the decision-making processes and contract award processes to ensure a level playfield is established.

This framework builds upon NWL’s existing procurement practices and is consistent with the UCR principles.

3.2 Bid Assessment Process

We have set out our Bid Assessment process in line with the headings in Annex 2 of the Ofwat guidance.

A2 Diagram of process

Figure 2: Overview of an example bid assessment framework process



NWL’s
Strategic

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Sourcing procurement process is outlined below. Strategic sourcing describes the whole process from an assessment of initial business need through to end of contract requirements. The approach formalises the way we deliver third party arrangements and ensures that business needs and best value is achieved, through robust supply chain engagement.

Strategic sourcing is a staged process that brings discipline and procedure into the whole life cycle management of supply chain arrangement.

Establish Requirements	Key requirements, constraints and business requirements are clearly established at the onset of any procurement - See Appendix C.
<p>Prequalification</p>	<p>PQQ documentation will outline the information required including questionnaires and any mandatory requirements to assess a supplier's suitability for the services required. Typically, such information required shall include H&S compliance, environmental requirements, evidence of specific technical capability, financial information, and references. Additional criteria proportionate to the stated requirements will also be required. Full details of the requirements and assessment criteria will also be published with the PQQ.</p> <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>
<p>Need Specification</p>	<p>We will provide a specification when the need for a water resource/demand management/ bioresources has been identified which will detail the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline scope/business need • Environmental aspects - NWL is committed to serving its customers in an environmentally responsible way. We assure Ofwat, the EA 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>

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<p>Time Limits and Bid Clarifications</p>	<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" data-bbox="544 638 1476 1386"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="544 638 887 696">Stage</th> <th data-bbox="887 638 1476 696">Timescales and Detail of Response</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 696 887 777">Expression of interest</td> <td data-bbox="887 696 1476 777">NWL will acknowledge and issue any relevant documentation within 1 week</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 777 887 976">Bidder raises any queries or ambiguities NWL will keep a query and ambiguity log which they will provide to all bidders</td> <td data-bbox="887 777 1476 976">NWL will provide answers to all questions within 4 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 976 887 1057">Bids Submitted</td> <td data-bbox="887 976 1476 1057">NWL will acknowledge bids are received within 1 week</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1057 887 1144">Notification of successful and unsuccessful bidders</td> <td data-bbox="887 1057 1476 1144">NWL will respond with feedback and audit report within 3 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1144 887 1225">Standstill period</td> <td data-bbox="887 1144 1476 1225">NWL will accept any challenges within this 2-week period</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1225 887 1283">Challenges</td> <td data-bbox="887 1225 1476 1283">NWL will respond to challenges within 1 week</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="544 1283 887 1386">Contract Award</td> <td data-bbox="887 1283 1476 1386">NWL will announce and confirm the award of the contract within 4 weeks</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Stage	Timescales and Detail of Response	Expression of interest	NWL will acknowledge and issue any relevant documentation within 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 answers to all questions within 4 weeks	Bids Submitted	NWL will acknowledge bids are received within 1 week	Notification of successful and unsuccessful bidders	NWL will respond with feedback and audit report within 3 months	Standstill period	NWL will accept any challenges within this 2-week period	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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<p>Evaluation</p>	<p>The evaluation process will be assessed fairly and according to the same evaluation criteria as our in-house solution. A typical evaluation criterion 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>																
<p>Governance</p>	<p>See Section 2.3</p>																

NORTHUMBRIAN WATER BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Contract Award	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 required. The procurement team are subject to internal audit and external audit, with the findings reported to the NWL Audit Committee who assure the integrity of NWL's regulatory reporting systems.
Communication of Decision	<p>All Communications will be in accordance with Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.</p> <p>Feedback will be provided 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 applicants consider that the bid has not been appraised in accordance with the Bid Assessment Framework.</p> <p>If you have a complaint or a challenge, then firstly contact Phil Hicks, Head of Procurement Procurement@nwl.co.uk who will acknowledge your issue within 2 weeks. To escalate the issue please contact Graham Southall, Group Commercial Director (Graham.Southall@nwl.co.uk).</p>

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

4. WATER RESOURCES

4.1 Northumbrian Water

Northumbrian Water (NW) is a statutory water and wastewater company in the Northeast. 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 wastewater services in Hartlepool.

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

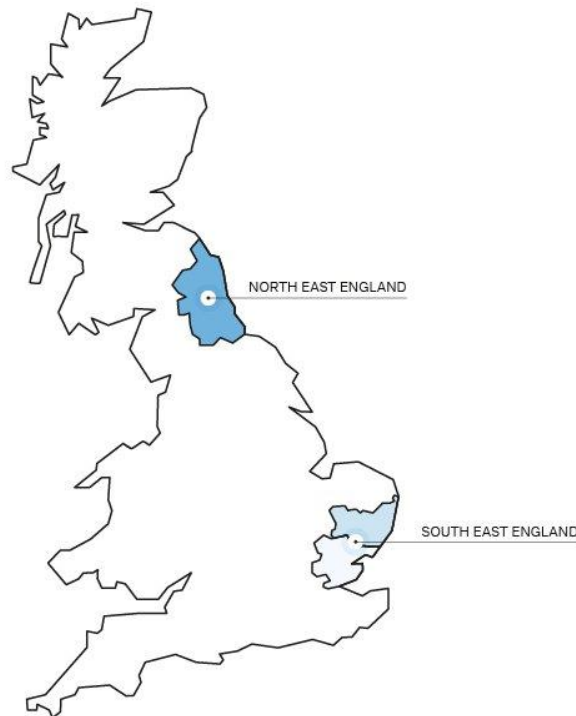
4.2 Essex & Suffolk Water

Essex & Suffolk Water (ESW) is a statutory water company in the Southeast. The business supplies water services to 1.78 million people in Essex and 0.29 million people 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. The Suffolk area is mainly rural with the largest towns being Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Our ESW operating areas share borders with Thames Water, Affinity Water and Anglian Water.

Figure 1: Northumbrian Water and Essex & Suffolk Water Operating Areas

Source Northumbrian Water Website



BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

4.3 NWL water resources

5.3.1 NW operating area

The Water Resource Zone (WRZ) is the basic building block of a Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP). 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. NW has 2 WRZs covering its supply area. These are the Berwick WRZ in the far North of the supply area covering about 1% of 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



5.3.2 ESW operating area

ESW has geographically separate supply areas, known as the Essex supply area and Suffolk supply area (Figure 3). Water is supplied to approximately 1.78 million people in the Essex supply area and 0.29 million people in the Suffolk supply area. In line with the Water Resources Planning Guideline (WRPG), ESW's WRMP is based on assessments undertaken at a WRZ level.

In the case of ESW, four resource zones have been delineated, one in Essex (the Essex resource zone) and three in Suffolk known as the Blyth, Hartismere, and Northern/Central WRZs. Schematic diagrams of the WRZs and associated infrastructure are shown in Figure 3 for Essex and Suffolk.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Figure 3 Water Resources in the Essex and Suffolk Water Supply Areas

Source: Northumbrian Water WRMP



5.3.3 WRZ supply / demand forecasts

To understand if we have sufficient water to meet our customers' needs, we compare dry year and critical period customer demand and supply forecasts, taking account of the uncertainties in the forecasts. This assessment produces a supply demand balance for each WRZ which show if there is sufficient water to meet customers' needs or if there is a supply deficit.

Our current Water Resources Management Plan 2019 (WRMP19) is published on our website at www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp24 and forecast a supply surplus for all our WRZs across the planning period.

However, we have now updated our supply and demand forecasts for our draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (WRMP24). The supply demand balances across our supply area are shown in Table 1 below and include our preferred PR24 Demand Management Options for Water Efficiency, Metering and Leakage.

Table 1: Draft PR24 Baseline + Demand Management Options Balance of Supply (Ml/d) for WRZs

	End of AMP 7	End of AMP 8	End of AMP 9	End of AMP 10	End of AMP 11	End of Planning Horizon
Year	2024/25	2029/30	2034/35	2039/40	2044/45	2049/50
Kielder	18	16	12	16	21	26
Berwick	0.73	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.86	0.91
Essex	-19.77	-11.37	-6.58	5.61	11.84	7.37
Suffolk – Northern Central	7.09	3.80	1.35	1.80	-13.46	-29.18
Suffolk - Blyth	3.07	0.24	-5.41	-5.30	-6.05	-6.89
Suffolk - Hartismere	-3.59	-4.15	-6.29	-6.27	-6.90	-7.65

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The table above shows that our Kielder and Berwick Water Resource Zones in the North East and our Suffolk Northern Central Water Resource Zone remain in surplus for the full statutory 25 year planning period. However, our Essex, Blyth and Hartismere Water Resource Zones have a supply deficit from 2025 due to new non-household demand, sustainability reductions applied to the annual licensed quantities on our abstraction licence and climate change. Consequently, supply schemes over and above our preferred demand management options will also be required to restore a supply surplus. We have therefore undertaken an options appraisal and have developed a Best Value Plan. This will be presented in our Draft WRMP24 which we will submit to Defra by 3 October 2022. We will hold a 12-week public consultation on our draft WRMP24 once directed to do so by Defra, most likely starting in December 2022. Further information will be published on our website (www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp) at this point.

5.3.4 Statutory obligations

NWL 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.

NWL is regulated by the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat), the Environment Agency (EA), 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 2019 (PR19) for the period April 2020 to March 2025.
- The EA's purpose is to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. It is responsible for issuing water companies with abstraction licences and discharge consents. The Environment Agency is particularly concerned with the quality and quantity of fresh surface and underground water and marine and estuarial waters and strives to prevent/reduce the threat of water contamination and reduce flooding.
- The DWI regulates all appointed water companies in England and Wales. It acts on behalf of the Secretary of State for 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.

5.3.5 Water Trading Statement

We believe in the benefits of cross company collaborative working and have several existing water trading agreements in place. We report on these arrangements to Ofwat, and this information is published on Ofwat's website. All water trading opportunities are considered by the business. We are committed to the high-level principles identified by Ofwat as detailed in Ofwat's Trading and Procurement Code – Guidance on Requirements and Principles dated May 2018. Where possible trades are identified, we are committed to trading in a transparent and responsible manner and to the benefit of customers.

We are core members of:

Water Resources East (WRE): www.waterresourceeast.org.uk

Water Resources North (WReN): www.waterresourcesnrth.org.uk

In developing our draft WRMP24s, we have worked closely with both WRE and WReN and have

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

appraised export options, most notably from our Kielder WRZ in the Northumbrian Water region to both United Utilities and Yorkshire Water.

3.3.1 DEMAND MANAGEMENT – PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

The NWL forward plan for demand management is contained in our current PR24 WRMP. This covers the forecasts and the options to the end of the planning period which is the year 2080. The options for demand management are presented in Table 3 below. A further breakdown showing the activities in each option are shown in Appendix A.

A summary of the likely demand management activities for our draft WRMP24 are as follows:

Table 3: PR24 Demand Management Options for WRZs

Source: Northumbrian water and Essex and Suffolk Market Information

Region	Leakage	Water Efficiency	Metering
Northumbrian Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active leakage control (Find and Fix) ▪ Main's renewal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water use audit and Inspection ▪ Advice and information on leakage detection and fixing techniques ▪ Water efficiency enabling activities ▪ Promotion of Water Saving Devices ▪ Targeted water conservation information (advice on appliance water usage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted Optant Smart Metering ▪ Installation on customer request ▪ NWL promotional activity
Essex & Suffolk Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active leakage control (Find and Fix) ▪ Main's renewal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water use audit and Inspection ▪ Advice and information on leakage detection and fixing techniques ▪ Water efficiency enabling activities ▪ Promotion of Water Saving Devices ▪ Targeted water conservation information (advice on appliance water usage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compulsory Smart Metering by 2035 ▪ All unmeasured customer properties have a meter selectively installed

As confirmed in our current Water Resources Management Plan 2019 (WRMP19), we do not have any supply deficits in the current AMP (AMP7). Nevertheless, we are delivering our AMP7 demand management strategies for leakage, metering and water efficiency and do have a procurement strategy for all the demand management activities

However, as confirmed in Table 1 above, we are forecasting supply deficits in our Essex, Blyth and Hartismere WRZs from 2025 in our draft WRMP24. Our confirmed PR24 Demand Management Strategies will be presented in our draft WRMP24 which we will submit to Defra by 3 October 2022. These strategies 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.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

3.3.2 Third Party Contracts

Table 4: Third Party Contracts for Demand Management

Activity	Leakage/Household water efficiency	Location	Contractor	Date of renewal	Extension Available	Subject to UCR
Mains Renewal	Leakage	Northeast	Out to market - tender launching 7/8/22	01/04/23	TBC	Yes
Leakage Technicians	Leakage	Northeast	Invenio	28/10/22	6 months	No unless longer contract awarded.
Mains Renewal	Leakage	Suffolk	Out to market - tender launching 7/8/22	01/04/23	TBC	Yes
Home Retrofits	Household water efficiency	Companywide	Aqualogic	31/12/2022	Further 3 years available	Yes
Leaking toilet repairs	Household water efficiency	Northeast	Cenergist	31/08/2023	Further 18 months years available	Yes
School education visits	Household water efficiency	Companywide	Hopscotch	31/12/2022	No Option	Below Threshold
Water saving kits	Household water efficiency	Companywide	Aqualogic	31/12/22	Further 2 years	Yes

Where applicable the contracts currently follow the Utilities Contracts Regulations (UCR) 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.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

5. Bioresources

5.1 NW operating area

NWL operate Bioresources in the Northumbrian water region only. There are no services delivered in the Essex and Suffolk area.

The North East region includes large sparsely populated areas that are served by a very large number of small or very small sewage treatment works. To the west of the region, we have the Pennines, to the south, the North York Moors, and the Scottish borders to the north.

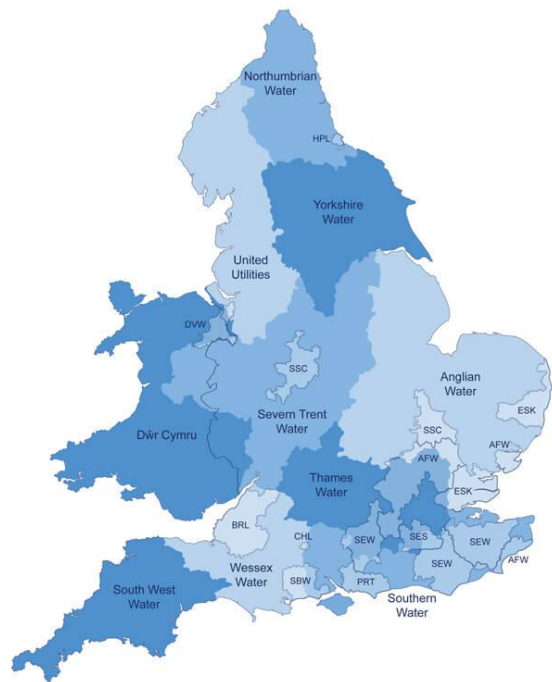
For further information please refer to appendix.

Figure 3 Bioresources in the NWL Wastewater Services Areas

Source: Northumbrian Water



Figure 4 Bioresources operators in England



5.2 Bioresources Statutory obligations

Our approach to independent assurance of our Bioresources Market Information is consistent with that adopted for other regulatory publications, notably the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Cost Assessment publication. Our Internal Audit team have performed a review of the information provided by management the purpose of providing assurance to the Directors and the Audit Committee Chairman that the data to be published has been produced in accordance with the guidance provided by Ofwat.

Based on the results of their review our Internal Audit team have confirmed that no exceptions or issues were noted. The data reported in all of the tables has been reconciled to supporting documentation and to data taken from our corporate systems. The data is also consistent with that used in the preparation of our APR and Cost Assessment submissions, the assurance for which is detailed in our 2021/22 Data Assurance Summary document. Where an estimated approach has been adopted our Internal Audit team have confirmed that the assumptions made are appropriate and in line with the guidance provided by Ofwat.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

5.3 Bioresources Technical Requirements

NWL require the following details for assessing any potential bids:

- Delivery sites details
- Volumes per day/week/month
- Method of delivery – contractor or NWL fleet plus delivery window/working hours
- Waste Carrier Licence if applicable
- Percentage % dry solids
- Screened/non screened
- Primary/secondary/mixed sludge type
- Sludge age
- Waste Transfer notes, or method of recoding both legislatively and for billing purpose
- Finally, to remain BAS (Biosolids Assurance Scheme) compliant we would require from the receiving site -
 - 1/Source Material Risk Assessment
 - 2/Treatment Site Risk Control form

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

5.4 Bioresources – Bioresources Demand, Procurement Strategy & Third-Party Contracts

The NWL forward plan for Bioresources is contained below.

Section A: Identifier		Section B: Bioresource service		Section C: Commercial information			
1	2	1	2	1	2	3	4
Contract reference	Contract title	Description of service	Quantity	Contract start date	Contract end date	Term of contract	Other
NW1953	Biosolids Recycling Activities for Howdon and Bran Sands	Recycling	105,000 wet tonnes	Oct-18	Sep-23	5 Years	Bran sands AAD production
NW2119	Sludge transport services	Transport	ad-hoc	Oct-21	Sep-24	3 Years	Tankering of liquid sludge and cake sludge between NWL's sites in support of NWL's own tanker fleet
NW2320	Emergency Sludge Recycling and Disposal Services	Recycling and Disposal	ad-hoc	Apr-21	Mar-24	3 Years	Outlet for liquid and caked sludge in Emergency scenario

Where applicable the contracts currently follow the Utilities Contracts Regulations (UCR) 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.

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6. APPENDIX A – PREQUALIFICATION INFORMATION

6.1 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 supplier's 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 relating to the following:

- 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 are not taking place.
- Full compliance 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 wastewater services. We provide essential services in the areas in which we work, and 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 (see https://www.nwl.co.uk/assets/documents/NWG_Conduct_Code_HR_-_FINAL2.pdf).

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 with fairness in accordance with our Code of Conduct and the Bribery Act 2010.

6.2 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.

6.3 Data protection

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

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

6.4 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.

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.

6.5 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.

6.6 References

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

6.7 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

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

- 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
 - 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 a binding arrangement with a view to paying, the taxes or social security contributions due, including, where applicable, any interest accrued or fines.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

8. APPENDIX C – REQUIREMENTS

Water Availability	Review of EA's relevant Catchment Abstraction Strategy documents to determine local capacity
Water Resource Reliability	To determine the source yield and the percentage of time that water resources will be available with relevant catchments
Security and Resilience of proposal	To determine how sustainable and flexible the proposed option is
Licensing Requirements	To Determine any constraints or whether this is acceptable to the Environment Agency after consultation
Estimated Costs	To determine the estimated costs based on an 80-year profile for both Capex and Opex on an NPV basis
Local Network Constraints	To determine any local network constraints associated with the proposed use of the resource
Water Quality considerations	To determine any concerns with respect to water quality and the need for any additional treatment
Environmental Considerations	To determine any environmental concerns associated with any proposal to include SSSI considerations and any hydrological impacts for groundwater options

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

9. Appendix C – Bioresources

WwTW Sludge Production Sites for population served greater than 2000

Northumbrian Water Limited

This table sets out the data required for wastewater treatment works which are where raw sludge is produced. Each wastewater treatment works serving the equivalent of a population of 2000 and more must be filled in on a new row in the spreadsheet.

Company commentary (optional)																										
Section A: Identifier				Section B: Sludge production information							Section C: Sludge quality				Section D: Site particulars						Section E: Transport					
Column number	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Specification	WwTW site name	WwTW location grid ref latitude	WwTW location grid ref longitude	Unique Asset ID	Quantity of raw sludge produced per year (only sites where sludge leaves assets under network plus price control)	Estimated or Measured quantity of sludge	Average Dry Solids of sludge produced by works %	Estimated or Measured %dry solids sludge	Typical volatile solids content	WwTW classification	Inlet Screened <=6mm	De-gritting at inlet works	Sludge screened	Further information (unusual sludge constituents, planning constraints, freshness etc.)	Is site co-located with a Sludge Treatment Centre (STC)?	Co-located site ID	Operating hours of the site	What is the maximum size (capacity) of tanker that can enter the works?	What is the minimum requirement for tanker sludge collection frequency?	Other	Principal destination for sludge	Percent of sludge going to principal destination	Main transport mode to principal destination	Secondary destination for sludge	Percent of sludge going to secondary destination	Main transport mode to secondary destination
Input type	Text	Grid ref latitude	Grid ref longitude	Text	Quantity (TDS)	Estimated/Measured	%	Estimated/Measured	%	Text (see definitions page)	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Text (as appropriate)	Yes/No	Text	Days/Time (24 hr clock)	Tanker size, m3	Time	Text (as appropriate)	Text	%	Text	Text	%	Text
Decimal places		6 figure	6 figure		0		2		2									0				0			0	
Mandatory requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes														Yes		Yes			
ALLEDALE STW	54.9082	-2.2694	NST2072	13	Measured	2.69	Measured	SB	Y	Y	N	-	No			12 hrs 7 days	18	Weekly		Hexham	89	Road - liquid	Howdon	11	Road - liquid	
ALNWICK STW	55.412200	-1.681200	NST1272	339	Measured	1.78	Measured	SB	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	100	Road - liquid				
AMBLE STW	55.324100	-1.576300	NST9122	175	Measured	2.14	Measured	CSAS	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Twice Weekly		Howdon	100	Road - liquid				
AYCLIFFE STW	54.605200	-1.583200	TST1112	1428	Measured	4.00	Measured	SAS Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Bran Sands	82	Road - liquid	Howdon	37	Road - liquid	
GREAT AYTON STW	54.479400	-1.156500	TST2022	119	Measured	2.11	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Twice Weekly		Bran Sands	93	Road - liquid	Portrack	7	Road - liquid	
BARKERS HAUGH STW	54.782442	-1.572749	WST1032	946	Measured	3.76	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	93	Road - liquid	Hendon	7	Road - liquid	
BARNARD CASTLE STW	54.534900	-1.910000	TST3022	163	Measured	4.89	Measured	SB	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Weekly		Bran Sands	85	Road - liquid	Portrack	5	Road - liquid	
BELMONT STW	54.799900	-1.528600	WST1052	229	Measured	4.57	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	91	Road - liquid	Hendon	9	Road - liquid	
BERWICK STW	55.757272	-2.032702	NST1012	31	Measured	4.00	Measured	SAS	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	100					
BILLINGHAM STW	54.622900	-1.258800	TST402	748	Measured	2.88	Measured	SAS	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Bran Sands	76	Road - liquid	Portrack	24	Road - liquid	
BIRBLEY STW	54.902600	-1.594400	NST2305	72	Measured	3.92	Measured	SB	Y	Y	Y	-	Yes			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily	NST230P	Howdon	99	Road - liquid	Hexham	1	Road - liquid	
BISHOP AUCKLAND STW	54.878600	-1.882800	WST1902	788	Measured	3.53	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Willington	84	Road - liquid	Bran Sands	11	Road - liquid	
BLYTH STW	55.133300	-1.538600	NST1612	775	Measured	4.33	Measured	CSAS	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	100	Road - liquid				
BOWBURN STW	54.727300	-1.532800	WST1062	305	Measured	2.74	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	99	Road - liquid	Hendon	1	Road - liquid	
BROOMHAUGH STW	54.952100	-1.957400	NST2332	154	Measured	3.07	Measured	SAS	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Twice Weekly		Howdon	100	Road - liquid				
BROWNEY STW	54.741700	-1.601100	WST1102	548	Measured	3.54	Measured	SAS Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Willington	63	Road - liquid	Tudhoe Mill	25	Road - liquid	
CAMBOIS STW	55.156900	-1.540900	NNN1005	656	Measured	2.94	Measured	SAS	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	100	Road - liquid				
CARLTON & REDMARSHALL STW	54.592900	-1.404800	TST1062	56	Measured	1.72	Measured	SB	Y	Y	N	-	No			12 hrs 7 days	18	Weekly		Portrack	96	Road - liquid	Stressholme	3	Road - liquid	
CHESTER LE STREET STW	54.854551	-1.578047	WST1152	767	Measured	4.50	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	93	Road - liquid	Hendon	4	Road - liquid	
CHILTON LANE STW	54.867100	-1.521500	TST8042	61	Measured	3.33	Measured	SB	Y	Y	N	-	No			12 hrs 7 days	18	Weekly		Portrack	58	Road - liquid	Bran Sands	23	Road - liquid	
CONSETT STW	54.889500	-1.852700	NST2192	931	Measured	4.69	Measured	SB Cphos	Y	Y	N	-	No			24 hrs 7 days	29	Daily		Howdon	95	Road - liquid	Birley	4	Road - liquid	

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Smaller WwTW (less than 2000 population equivalent served)

Northumbrian Water Limited

This table sets out the data required for WwTWs serving a population of less than 2000. Each WwTW must be filled in on a new row in the spreadsheet.

Please note that any WwTW that is desludged by intermittently emptied by tankering the contents to the start of another larger sewage treatment works should not be included in this list. The sludge removed in this way should be accounted for in the sludge produced at the larger receiving sewage treatment works.

Company commentary (optional)

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Column number	Section A: Identifier				Section B: Sludge production information	
	1	2	3	4	1	2
Specification	WwTW site name	WwTW location (grid ref latitude)	WwTW location (grid ref longitude)	Unique Asset ID	Quantity (TDS) per year Average amount of sludge produced per year: Either stated as <70 tonnes per annum or a more accurate estimate if available	WwTW classification
Input type	Text	Grid ref latitude	Grid ref longitude	Text	Quantity (TDS)	See definitions page
Decimal places		6 figures	6 figures		0	
Mandatory requirement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

ALDBROUGH STW	54.4931	-1.68024	TST5225
ALDIN GRANGE STW	54.7829	-1.61553	WST1012
ALDIN GRANGE SOUTH STW	54.7804	-1.61453	WST1022
ALNMOUTH	55.3963	-1.62102	NST1282
ARCHDEACON NEWTON stw	54.5489	-1.60736	TST5022
BARDON MILL STW	54.9743	-2.34473	NST1942
BARRASFORD STW	55.0527	-2.12877	NST1751
BARTON STW	54.4762	-1.64416	TST5032

	6	SB
	7	SB
	1	SB
	3	SB
	3	SB
	0	SB
	1	SB
	12	SB

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

BELFORD	55.5982	-1.81695	NST1152
BELLINGHAM STW	55.1409	-2.25537	NST1592
BELSAY STW	55.1034	-1.83766	NST1681
BERWICK HILL STW	55.0733	-1.72858	NST1851
BISHOP MIDDLEHAM STW	54.6716	-1.49221	TST8032
BISHOPTON STW	54.5869	-1.44286	TST1022
BLANCHLAND STW	54.8476	-2.05036	NST2121
BOULMER	55.4271	-1.60644	NB027
BOWES STW	54.5144	-2.00473	TST3045
BRASSIDE STW	54.8112	-1.55637	WST1082
BUTTERKNOWLE STW	54.6249	-1.82200	WST1492
CALDWELL STW	54.5122	-1.74765	TST5042
CARLTON IN CLEVELAND STW	54.4372	-1.21936	TST2041
CASSOP STW	54.7391	-1.46875	WST1132
CAUSEY ARCH STW	54.8992	-1.68316	NST3282
CHATTON STW	55.5518	-1.91005	NST1191
COALBURNS STW	54.9431	-1.80062	NST3052
COCKFIELD STW	54.6182	-1.79224	WST1162
DUNSTAN STW	55.4727	-1.60423	NST3202
EDMONDSLEY STW	54.8429	-1.63164	WST1232
EAST HEDLEYHOPE STW	54.7580	-1.75725	WST1212
EAST HOWLE STW	54.6995	-1.54277	WSP204A
EAST LAYTON STW	54.4855	-1.74681	TST5082
EAST WOODBURN STW	55.1765	-2.14655	NST1491
EDMUNDBYERS STW	54.8427	-1.97876	NST2151
EGLINGHAM STW	55.4638	-1.82083	NST1242
ELLINGHAM STW	55.5245	-1.73082	NST3272
ELSDON STW	55.2311	-2.10042	NST2822
EMBLETON	55.4898	-1.63310	NST1212
EPPLEBY STW	54.5130	-1.72141	TST5092
FIR TREE STW	54.7024	-1.78871	WST1272

	5	SB
	2	SB
	2	SB
	2	SB
	12	SB
	2	SB
	1	SB
	25	SB
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	44	SB
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	1	SB
	0	SB
	0	SB
	0	SB
	21	SB
	27	SB Cphos
	1	SB
	5	SB
	0	SB
	1	SB
	1	SB
	0	SB
	1	SB
	1	SB
	2	SB
	10	SB
	5	SB
	0	SB

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

FONTBURN STW	55.2379	-1.92033	N0071
FOURSTONES STW	55.0037	-2.17985	NST1891
FROSTERLEY STW	54.7272	-1.93329	WST1882
GAINFORD STW	54.5423	-1.72802	TST3092
GLANTON STW	55.4189	-1.89471	NST1261
GREAT BROUGHTON STW	54.4566	-1.16609	TST2032
GREATHAM STW	54.6380	-1.23709	TST4052
GRIBDALE STW	54.4922	-1.09881	TST2252
GUNNERTON STW	55.0691	-2.15172	NST1731
HAWTHORN STW	54.8034	-1.33816	WST1292
HAYDON BRIDGE STW	54.9751	-2.23485	NST1922
HEBRON STW	55.1995	-1.69575	NST4121
HEDDON ON THE WALL STW	54.9886	-1.78793	NST2222
HEPSCOTT STW	55.1484	-1.64140	NST1602
HEUGH HALL STW	54.7323	-1.51269	WST1332
HOLMSIDE STW	54.8371	-1.66046	WST1362
HORNBY STW	54.4464	-1.43561	TST5122
HUMSHAUGH STW	55.0313	-2.12482	NST1872
HUTTON MAGNA STW	54.5090	-1.80594	TST3112
INGLEBY GREENHOW STW	54.4504	-1.10804	TST2091
KIELDER LEAPLISH STW	55.1833	-2.53368	NST4942
KIRKHARLE STW	55.1344	-1.98397	NST2712
KIRKLEVINGTON STW	54.4843	-1.34052	TST2112
KIRKWHELPTINGTON STW	55.1546	-2.00171	NST1571
LAMBLEY STW	54.9211	-2.51119	NST2481
LEAPLISH SKI CLUB STW	55.1833	-2.53368	NST4942
LONGBYRE STW	54.9897	-2.53852	NST1982
LONGHIRST VILLAGE	55.1926	-1.64739	NST1532
LONGHORSLEY STW	55.2441	-1.75809	NST1452

	0	SB
	0	SB
	6	SB
	24	SB
	2	SB
	3	SB
	0	SB
	0	SB
	1	SB
	6	SB
	25	SB
	5	SB
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	1	SB
	1	SB
	0	SB
	0	SB
	0	SB
	1	SB
	0	SB
	1	SB
	0	SB
	0	SB
	8	SB

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

LONGNEWTON STW	54.5438	-1.39915	TST1052	10	SB
LOW WORSALL	54.4853	-1.39763	TST2201	1	SB
MANFIELD STW	54.5161	-1.65466	TST5152	2	SB
MATFEN STW	55.0413	-1.94703	NST1811	2	SB
MELSONBY STW	54.4694	-1.68520	TST5162	9	SB
MICKLETON STW	54.6104	-2.04245	TST3142	1	SB
MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE STW	54.6197	-2.07597	TST3132	22	SB
MIDDLETON-ONE-RROW STW	54.6943	-1.19239	TST5172	1	SB
MILLFIELD STW	55.6029	-2.09896	NST1141	1	SB
MOORSHOLME STW	54.5242	-0.93593	TST6042	0	SB
NENTHEAD STW	54.7922	-2.34663	NST2052	1	SB
NETHERTON STW	55.3619	-2.01562	NST3392	2	SB
NEWBY STW	54.5015	-1.22146	TST2131	0	SB
NEW MOORS STW	54.6108	-1.74179	WST1532	14	SB
NEWFIELD STW	54.6958	-1.69011	WST1522	1	SB
NEWTON STW	54.9730	-1.94510	NST2143	9	SB
NEWTON UNDER ROSEBERRY STW	54.5102	-1.12373	TST2142	0	SB
NEWTON-ON-THE-MOOR STW	55.3449	-1.72964	NNL8552	0	SB
NORHAM STW	55.7216	-2.15712	NST1042	0	SB
OTTERBURN STW	55.2278	-2.17213	NST1462	3	SB
PICKTREE STW	54.8698	-1.56387	WST2261	1	SB
PITTINGTON STW	54.7879	-1.48475	WST1572	21	SB
PITY ME STW	54.8072	-1.59299	WST1582	13	SB
PLAWSWORTH STW	54.8212	-1.59000	WST1592	22	SB
RAMSHAW STW	54.6283	-1.76363	WST1622	35	SB Cphos
REDESMOUTH STW	55.1346	-2.21511	NST2502	0	SB
RENNINGTON STW	55.4623	-1.66359	NST1232	0	SB
ROCHESTER STW	55.2760	-2.26497	NST3192	0	SB
ROOKHOPE STW	54.7716	-2.09108	WST1631	3	SB
ROTHBURY ENVIRONMENTAL STW	55.3080	-1.89732	NST1341	1	SB

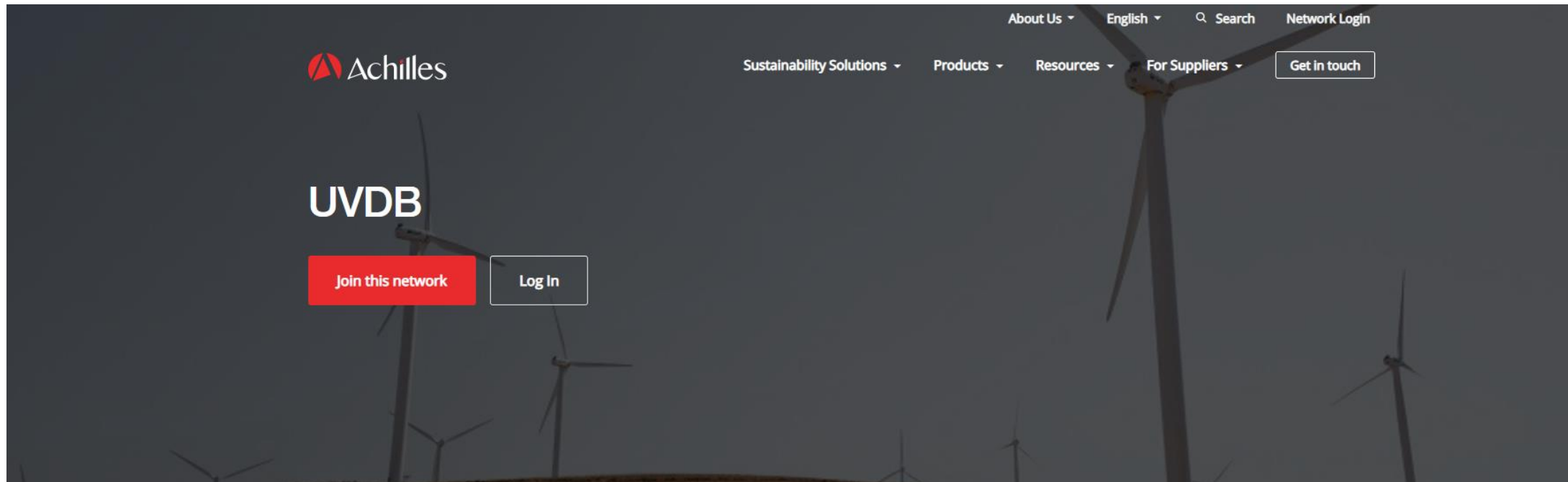
BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

SADBERGE STW	54.5500	-1.47410	TST1072
SATLEY STW	54.7892	-1.81460	WST1651
SCOTS GAP STW	55.1692	-1.93541	NST1501
SHERATON STW	54.7072	-1.31547	TST4072
SHERBURN HOSPITAL STW	54.7691	-1.52428	WST1681
SHILBOTTLE STW	55.3699	-1.6606	NST1302
SLALEY STW	54.9102	-2.02709	NST2112
SNITTER (& THROPTON) STW	55.3204	-1.95515	NST1411
STAINDROP STW	54.5735	-1.78148	TST3202
STANTON STW	54.5535	-1.89882	TST3242
STAMFORDHAM STW	55.0416	-1.86966	NST2391
STANHOPE STW	54.7367	-1.99269	WST1712
SUMMERHOUSE STW	54.5659	-1.68740	TST5193
SWAINBY STW	54.4186	-1.26538	TST2192
TEESSIDE AIRPORT STW (GOOSEBECK)	54.5208	-1.42584	TST5202
TOGSTON STW	55.3073	-1.60808	NST1392
TOW LAW STW	54.7413	-1.8237	WST1762
ULGHAM STW	55.2268	-1.63214	NST1472
UNIVERSITY STW	54.7562	-1.57610	WST1782
USHAW MOOR STW	54.7804	-1.66207	WST1792
WALL STW	55.0121	-2.13568	NST1882
WARK STW	55.0853	-2.21950	NST1721
WEAR VALLEY JUNCTION STW	54.6797	-1.74543	WST1831
WEST WOODBURN STW	55.1754	-2.17424	NST1481
WHALTON STW	55.1218	-1.80671	NST1671
WHITTINGHAM STW	55.4024	-1.88959	NST1292
WHITTLE COLLIERY STW	55.3533	-1.72621	NST8742
WHORLTON STW	54.5268	-1.83529	TST3222
WINDMILL STW	54.6502	-1.78871	WST1892
WOOLEY HOSPITAL STW	54.9304	-2.04854	NST8572

	5	SB
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BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

10. Appendix D - Contract Advertisement



<https://www.achilles.com/community/uvdb/>

The utilities market is fast moving, subject to ever more stringent regulation and new technologies. UVDB is the utility industry pre-qualification system used across the UK. Working closely with key buying organisations in the sector, this community helps them achieve the highest standards of supply chain assurance.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

Find a contract

Explore and search business opportunities

Keywords

Can include contract title, description and buyer

[▶ How can I do an advanced search?](#)

Contract location

- All locations
- Region
- Postcode

Procurement stage

- Early engagement
- Future opportunity
- Opportunity
- Awarded contract

If you have any concerns about procurement practices, including late payment, you can contact the [Public Procurement Review Service](#).

You can find details of [recent procurement reforms](#), including Contracts Finder, on GOV.UK.

Contract information posted prior to 26 February 2015 will not appear on this site. You can view this data on the [Contracts Finder archive](#).

This is a [beta service](#) that launched on 26 February 2015.

Service support team

If you have problems using the Contracts Finder service, [contact our service support team](#).

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search>

Use the Find a Tender service to search and apply for high value contracts (usually above £118,000) in the UK's public and utilities sectors.

Find a Tender has replaced the EU's **Tenders Electronic Daily** from 1 January 2021 for high value contracts in the UK.

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

11. GLOSSARY

Capex	Capital expenditure
CC Water	Consumer Council for Water, a statutory consumer body for water and wastewater consumers in England and Wales
Contracts Finder	Contracts Finder lets you search for information about contracts worth over £10,000 with the government and its agencies. https://www.gov.uk/contracts-finder
Defra	Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the UK Government department with responsibility for the water sector
EA	Environment Agency, regulator for the natural environment in England
ESW	Essex & Suffolk Water, the South East trading name of NWL
Natural England	The UK Government's adviser for the natural environment in England
NWL	Northumbrian Water Limited, one of ten regulated Water and Sewerage Companies in England and Wales, operating in the North East of England trading as NW, and in the south east of England trading as ESW
NW	Northumbrian Water, the north east of England trading name of NWL
Ofwat	Economic regulator for the water sector in England and Wales
Opex	Operational expenditure
PR19	Periodic Review 2019 - 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
Price controls	The limits set by Ofwat on the charges that appointed companies can make for their services
Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016	These implement the directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors
WRMP	Water Resource Management Plan, an appointed water undertaker's strategic plan for managing water supply/demand balance
WRPG	Water Resources Planning Guideline, this provides a framework for water companies to follow when developing and presenting their water resources plans
WRZ	Water Resource Zone, the largest possible zone in which all resources, including external transfers, can be shared, and the zone in which all customers will experience the same risk of supply failure from a resource shortfall

BID ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

12. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

Name	Link
Water Resources Market Information (NW)	https://www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp
Water Resources Market Information (ESW)	https://www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp
Water Resources Management Plan (NW)	https://www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp
Water Resources Management Plan (ESW)	https://www.nwg.co.uk/wrmp
NWL Financial Rules	Tender process (nwg.co.uk)
Delivering Water 2020: Our Final Methodology for the 2019 price review. Appendix 8 Company bid assessment framework – the principles	https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publication/delivering-water-2020-final-methodology-2019-price-review-appendix-8-company-bid-assessment-framework-principles
Bioresources Market Information	nes_bioresources-market-information-21-22_jul_2022.xlsx (live.com)