

The initial scoping meeting for the empa regional Design and Technical Services (D&T) framework was held in May. This work stream is being led by Roger Upton of Nottinghamshire County Council and the first meeting was attended by representatives from several empa member Authorities.

General discussions were held on the format and content of the D&T framework and the outline methodology of engaging consultants under the framework. These discussions took into account the experiences from Nottinghamshire who over the past 3 years have been running a similar framework and which has also been used by several other empa member Authorities. Consideration was given to whether the framework should be regional, sub-regional or a combination of both and how many providers there should be. In order to answer these questions a short survey was developed and circulated after the initial meeting to all members to complete and the results reviewed at the second workgroup meeting earlier this month.

An initial analysis of the survey results at the last workgroup meeting showed there were as many as 55 different disciplines required across the Authorities from Architecture to Water Management. Proposals were considered to amalgamate similar and comparable disciplines in to 9 separate “major” disciplines. These would then either be provided on a regional basis or a sub-regional basis depending on workload which will be further considered and agreed at the next meeting on 23 July at Scape office in Nottingham.

Any Authorities who still wish to complete a survey can do so if they contact jodiem@scapebuild.co.uk for an electronic copy and their results and views will be fed in to the overall results.

Preparations are currently in hand to hold events for consultant SME’s in late July/early August to ensure they are aware and can respond to the pre-qualification questionnaire when the OJEU notice is published so as to ensure as much involvement as possible by smaller companies.

Should you require any further information or wish to comment on any aspects of the framework development so far please contact Alan Coole or Paul Bottrill at Scape (alanc@scapebuild.co.uk or paulb@scapebuild.co.uk).