

The Gatehouse Development Initiative
Pre- feasibility Study on Community Hydro Opportunities in the Fleet Valley
Tender Brief

Aims

The Gatehouse Development Initiative (GDI) wishes to appoint a consultant to provide pre-feasibility studies to establish the financial, technical and environmental viability of small-scale hydroelectric generation schemes on two watercourses within the Fleet Valley, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and Galloway.

The pre-feasibility study is required to establish:

- If any of these watercourses contain commercially viable sites and, if so, determine precise locations;
- The technical feasibility of the site/s;
- The necessary steps which will be required to progress the scheme/s to a strong and detailed planning application;
- To highlight any potential 'showstoppers' and to give indicative financial information on capital costs and potential savings/revenue.

The work is being commissioned by the GDI, a volunteer-led, community based charitable company operating within Gatehouse of Fleet. We are accessing CARES grant funding from Community Energy Scotland, which requires all works to be completed and invoiced for by 31st March 2013.

Background Information

The GDI is undertaking this work through the Community self-development option of the Forest Renewables Scheme offered by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). This scheme provides local communities with the opportunity to self-develop hydro schemes on Forestry land within their community environs.

In November 2012 the GDI commenced a one-year preference option on two sites within the Fleet valley, based on information provided by FCS. We have undertaken two further desktop assessments of these areas, which confirm the hydro potential. It is anticipated that any scheme/s identified on these sites will be 'run of river' type schemes, which will sell electricity for a feed in tariff and create an income stream for the community.

- Site no. 1- Big Water of Fleet, Meikle Cullendoch Moss
OS Grid reference: NX 560 620
Wood reference number: 1376
Projected capacity: 380kW
- Site no. 2- Barlay Burn, High Barlay
OS Grid reference: NX 610 570
Wood reference number: 1368
Projected capacity: 45kW

Scope of Feasibility Study

The study should comprise as a minimum:

- A site visit to the two sites outlined above
- An investigation of issues, any options and solutions relevant to the sites including:
 - hydrology, including flow rate and catchment area analysis
 - indication of likely outputs

- technology and infrastructure requirements for site development
- indicative system layout and pipeline specification
- indicative system efficiency and power output
- available grid infrastructure, identifying local connection points
- significant ecological, fisheries, landscape or historical designations likely to cause issues
- protected species
- terrain and access issues

Potential show-stoppers resulting from any of these issues should be clearly identified within the report. It is not envisaged that screening or scoping of the project will be undertaken at this stage, however in identifying show-stoppers the report should take into account the involvement of SNH, SEPA, RSPB, Galloway Fisheries Trust, the local planning authority and any other relevant bodies in a future planning process.

- Provide a summary of information that would be required for future planning application/s and to satisfy statutory and other consultees as listed above. This will include identifying environmental studies including fish surveys, bird surveys, vegetation surveys, mammal surveys etc.
- Provide indicative development costs; capital costs; payback periods and revenue generation potential based on FiT or ROC income; and the annual carbon savings/income that is likely to be generated. This should take into account the technology and infrastructure, as well as site development and commissioning costs.

Presentation of Study

Presentation of a final report would be expected in electronic format (PDF or word).

Timescale for Study

We anticipate the following timescales:

- Friday 1st March, consultant selected.
- w/b 4th March- inception meeting held, contract agreed and work commenced.
- 4th- 21st March- study carried out, interim meeting/s held and initial draft report submitted.
- Friday 29th March- final report completed and submitted to GDI. Final invoice received.

Budget

It is envisaged that the feasibility study will involve 4-6 days of work and will cost in the region of **£2000 to £3000 inclusive of VAT**.

Tender Submissions

Tender submissions should include:

- Knowledge and experience of developing similar hydro projects
- Track record of working successfully with community groups
- CVs of individuals who will be involved in the delivery of the contract
- Single point of contact for GDI to deal with
- Understanding of the tender brief
- Confirmation of Professional Liability Insurance
- Cost of the work.
- Timescales for the work

Selection criteria

The contractor will be appointed based on:

- Price
- Availability to meet the project timescales

- Fulfilment of the above tender submission criteria

The client/s are not bound to accept the lowest priced or any bid.

Tender Period

Tenders should be submitted by 5.00 pm on Thursday 28th February 2013 by email to Cara Gillespie.

Email: home@caragillespie.com

Hard copies are not required but may also be sent if desired to Cara Gillespie, GDI/ Mill Hydro Project, Cairnview, Laurieston Road, Gatehouse of Fleet, DG7 2BE. These must be received by the above deadline in order to be considered.

Further information

Further information about the Gatehouse Development Initiative can be found [here](#).

Further information about the background to the contract can be sought from Cara Gillespie by email (address above) or by telephone on 01557 815340 (evenings only) or 07979 606052.