

# COOPERATIVE FUTURES

business for good

## **Invitation to Tender: USE-IT! Locality Enabler & Connector for Community Business**

As part of its community business development work with the USE-IT! Programme, Co-operative Futures is looking to contract a local organisation or consortium of organisations that can enable community/associational groups and individuals to embark on the pathway of community business.

Co-operative Futures is a specialist business consultancy for co-operative and community owned enterprises. Co-operative Futures offers bespoke consultancy to emerging, new start and existing organisations.

The USE-IT! Programme takes a place-based approach to supporting residents to trade their way out of poverty and social exclusion by supporting the creation of a community of social entrepreneurs. It is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and led by Birmingham City Council and is based in the adjacent wards of Ladywood, Soho, Winson Green and Smethwick. The role of Co-operative Futures in the USE-IT programme is to support and develop community businesses in the programme area.

### **Purpose:**

The primary role of the Locality Enabler & Connector is two-fold:

- 1) To identify existing and emerging community groups and connect them to networks and /or direct community business support
- 2) To identify opportunities and/or assets that could form the basis of new community businesses or be used to incubate them

To carry out the role of Locality Enabler & Connector, Co-op Futures is looking for a local organisation, consortium or individual that can:

- animate interest in community business and their potential local beneficial impact,
- build the confidence and collective will to start community businesses
- encourage groups with assets (faith groups, community centres etc) to incubate community business
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Given that USE-IT! has a specific geographical remit, the Locality Enabler & Connector needs to be based in the USE-IT! area in order to bring together relevant local knowledge and strong relational links across the 3 mains wards.

### **Outputs and contract management**

Activity under the contract will be overseen by Co-operative Futures' USE-IT! manager through a regular review of data captured by the contractor in an agreed format, showing progress towards the agreed metrics.

The most important ultimate metric for the programme is the number community businesses formed and local employment created. However numerous other metrics will be relevant to track the process of encouraging the establishment of these businesses. Such metrics will be agreed with the successful contractor at the start of the contract but are likely to include: Number of groups contacted, spread of contacted groups across the USE-IT! area, number and variety of community business opportunities identified.

#### **Contract value and duration**

£9,950 excluding VAT.

The contract will run for 18 months from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

#### **Bidding information and deadline**

We recognise that organisations in the area may, through their existing community engagement activity, already be undertaking some of the work outlined in this invitation to tender. Therefore, in order to leverage existing effort, we welcome bids from individuals, partnerships or consortia.

Please include in your submission:

- Details of key individuals who will be involved in delivering the services
- Commentary on the communities, neighbourhoods and organisations in the USE-IT! area that you already know, know of, or can gain contact with
- Track record
- Referees

Bids must be submitted by **5pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017** to [info@futures.coop](mailto:info@futures.coop)