

Pride in Place – Placemaking Team Procurement proposal for Slade Green Neighbourhood Board

Wednesday 9 September 2026

Introduction

London Borough of Bexley (the Council) is the accountable body for funding awarded to the Slade Green area through the Government's Pride in Place programme to support thriving places, stronger communities and greater local control over decision-making. As a condition of the funding, all awarded areas must prepare a Pride in Place Plan for submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by February 2027.

Co-designed with the Slade Green Neighbourhood Board, the Pride in Place Plan (PIPP) will establish a long-term vision for Slade Green and set out how funding will be targeted and managed to achieve that vision, by taking account of the area's challenges and opportunities.

Ongoing Pride in Place funding will be dependent on the successful submission of the plan to MHCLG in February.

The Council's Placemaking team has therefore discussed procurement options and has identified the most appropriate procurement route considering the current tight programme, specific requirements, and available budget.

A shortlist of suitable consultants is recommended as the most effective route to procurement to appoint a suitable consultant based on their specialist skills and experience required to undertake the work.

Purpose of this briefing

Following the completion of the initial public consultation back in the summer and the appointment of the Slade Green Neighbourhood Board, the programme is now moving into the next important phase: the development of a community-led Pride in Place Plan (PIPP).

The purpose of this briefing is to seek the Neighbourhood Board's views and approval of the below procurement approach, agreeing the consultant brief, review and agree the proposed shortlist of organisations, evaluation approach and the Board's ongoing involvement in selecting the successful consultant.

Procurement approach

The Council's Placemaking Team has developed the proposed procurement approach based on its experience of delivering similar place-based commissions. Following discussion with the Procurement Team, a nominated shortlist is proposed, reflecting the specialist skills required, the value of the commission and the accelerated programme.

The shortlisted organisations will be subject to the Council's standard procurement and due diligence processes, with the London Tenders Portal providing transparency throughout the process.

The Neighbourhood Board's knowledge of Slade Green and its communities is central to selecting the right consultant. The Board is therefore invited to review and provide its views on the proposed shortlist before the procurement process progresses.

The appointed consultant will work collaboratively with the Neighbourhood Board, residents, businesses, community organisations and the Council to develop the Pride in Place Plan (PIPP).

The commission requires an integrated combination of:

- community engagement and participation;
- social research and evidence gathering;
- analysis and interpretation;
- placemaking and design expertise; and
- strategic plan-making and delivery.

The consultant will be expected to work in a genuinely community-led way, with the Neighbourhood Board actively involved throughout the process, from shaping priorities and the vision through to the development and refinement of the final plan.

Proposed shortlist

The Placemaking Team has identified the following organisations based on their:

- relevant placemaking, regeneration and community experience;
- track record in engagement and social research;
- experience developing place-based strategies and plans;
- ability to integrate engagement, research, analysis and plan-making;
- experience working with local authorities and public-sector clients; and
- capacity to deliver within the required timeframe.

Organisations proposed for the Board's consideration:

Organisation	Contact
Publica	mail@publica.co.uk / 020 7490 3986
DK-CM	studio@dk-cm.com / 07855 480735
New Practice	info@new-practice.co.uk / 0141 226 4092
Social Life	simeon.shtebunaev@social-life.co / 07460 832916
Architecture 00	info@architecture00.net / 020 7739 2230
Groundwork London	Groundwork London - Groundwork
Social Enterprise Kent	Home - Social Enterprise Kent
Sonar DISC Engagement	Community Engagement & Social Value Consultancy UK Sonar Engagement

3. Evaluation of tenders

It is proposed that tenders are assessed on the following basis:

- **60% Price**
- **40% Quality**

The quality assessment will comprise a series of specific questions designed to test the organisations' ability to deliver the commission effectively. Please see attached Non-commercial quality schedule for details.

The questions cover areas including:

- application of previous experience relevant to Pride in Place
- proposed methodology and approach;
- programme and project management;
- risk management and mitigation
- community engagement and social research;
- the proposed project team and the contribution of individual team members.
- Social value offer

The questions and scoring methodology have been developed with, and validated by, the Council's Procurement Team.

This approach is intended to ensure that the successful organisation is not simply the organisation offering the lowest price, but the one that provides the best overall combination of quality, relevant experience, methodology and value for money.

4. Proposed timetable

The programme is operating to a challenging timetable, with the final PIPP required to be submitted to MHCLG by **26 February 2027**.

To allow sufficient time for meaningful engagement and co-design with the community and the Neighbourhood Board, it is proposed that procurement is progressed on an accelerated basis.

Stage	Activity	Proposed date
1	Procurement preparation / present to Neighbourhood Board	08 September 2026
2	Tender period	09-30 September 2026
3	Project inception with Neighbourhood Board and Council	October 2026

4	Existing evidence base review and development of engagement programme	October 2026
5	Community engagement and co-design exercises	October–November 2026
6	Vision development	December 2026
7	Draft Pride in Place Plan shared with Neighbourhood Board and Council for review and comment	Early January 2027
8	Chief Finance Officer sign-off	January 2027
9	Neighbourhood Board final review and approval	Late January–February 2027
10	Final submission to MHCLG	26 February 2027

The timetable will be refined with the appointed consultant and the Neighbourhood Board at project inception. The intention is to ensure that the timetable remains sufficiently flexible to allow for meaningful community participation, while also meeting the MHCLG submission deadline.

6. Neighbourhood Board involvement in selecting the consultant

To ensure the Neighbourhood Board has ongoing involvement in the selection of the consultant, it is proposed that a representative nominated by the Neighbourhood Board joins the tender evaluation panel and participates in the assessment and scoring of all tender submissions in October- dates to be agreed.

This is an important opportunity for the Board to have a direct role in selecting the organisation that will work with it and the wider Slade Green community.

The Board representative does not need to be a procurement specialist. Ideally, the nominated member would bring an understanding of some of the following areas:

- placemaking and regeneration;
- community engagement;
- strategy and plan-making;
- social research;
- design and the built environment; and/or
- local community priorities and issues.

The evaluation panel would also include representatives from the Council's Placemaking Team and Policy and Strategy Team, together with an appropriate procurement moderator to support and moderate the evaluation process.

All panel members would assess the tenders against the agreed evaluation criteria and scoring methodology.

8. Proposed next steps and Board endorsement

Subject to the Neighbourhood Board's views, the proposed next steps are:

1. Neighbourhood Board to review and endorse the proposed procurement approach and shortlisted companies or identify any additional organisations for consideration.
2. Confirm the proposed tender evaluation criteria and questions.
3. Nominate a Neighbourhood Board representative to participate in the tender evaluation panel.
4. Proceed with the accelerated procurement timetable.
5. Evaluate tender submissions jointly through the agreed evaluation process.
6. Appoint the successful consultant by the end of September.
7. Commence the commission with the Neighbourhood Board in early October.

Decision requested from the Neighbourhood Board

The Neighbourhood Board is asked to:

1. Endorse the proposed procurement approach and evaluation methodology;
2. Consider and endorse the proposed shortlist of organisations, or suggest any additional organisations for consideration; an
3. Nominate a representative to participate in the tender evaluation panel.