



## NFCC NATIONAL DECARBONISATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACT (Ref: NFCC-FMC-623)

### Strategic Drivers and Contract Scope Briefing Note

#### Supporting Documents:

- a. Appendix 1 - Fire Sector Energy Engagement Questionnaire Template (June 2022);
- b. Appendix 2 - Fire Sector Energy Engagement Questionnaire Summary of Results
- c. Appendix 3 - Faithful+Gould Decarbonisation Strategy Outline Proposal (Redacted);
- d. Appendix 4 - Current Governance Structure Diagram; and
- e. Appendix 5 – Task & Finish Group Meeting Presentation Slides (10 10 23)

#### 1.0. Purpose and Disclaimers

- 1.1 This 'Briefing Note' has been prepared by the National Fire Chiefs Council ('NFCC') FM & Construction National Category Lead, acting on behalf of the NFCC National Procurement Hub, in collaboration with Faithful+Gould (*now trading as AtkinsRéalis*). Its purpose is to set out the national strategic and commercial drivers, as well as the key contract characteristics, deliverables and intended outcomes of the newly established NFCC National Decarbonisation Consultancy Services Call-off Contract with the view of assisting Fire and Rescue Services, and other Bluelight sector organisations, in their journey towards decarbonising their estate and establishing a national decarbonisation strategy that will enable them to discharge their obligations in support of the Government's net zero targets and greening commitments.
- 1.2 This Briefing Note and associated appendices contain information that is Commercial in Confidence and is not in the public domain. As such, the contents of the main document and all associated supporting appendices must not be disclosed or discussed with any third parties, unless prior written approval has been obtained by the NFCC and/or Faithful+Gould, whichever is relevant.

#### 2.0. Background and Strategic Drivers

- 2.1 The NFCC FM & Construction National Strategic Task and Finish Group (the 'Task and Finish Group') was established in November 2021 by the National Fire Commercial Transformation Programme ('NFCTP'), now commonly known as 'NFCC National Procurement Hub', in

collaboration with the National Fire Estates Group ('NFE') with the view of becoming the main delivery vehicle of the national strategic, commissioning, financial and commercial targets agreed between the Home Office and the NFCC for the UK Fire Sector.

- 2.2 The NFCC National Procurement Hub's key principles, which form the cornerstone of any national Fire Sector initiative and are aimed at delivering against the Home Office targets and deliverables, are as follows:
- Development of standardised requirements;
  - Aggregation of demand across Fire and Rescue Services to bring better commercial, operational and financial results (including but not limited to cashable and process savings);
  - Collaborative strategic supplier engagement and contract management; and
  - Commercial improvement of current contracting practices.
- 2.3 Developing a joint Estates Strategy and aggregating / reducing external consultancy costs are the two (2) primary Home Office targets that the NFCC must fulfil, and within this context, this national decarbonisation project is promoted, in line with instructions received by the Home Office Lead for Fire, as a **'Home Office Fire Priority'**.
- 2.4 With the above in mind, since July 2022 members of the Task and Finish Group have been working towards adopting a more seamless, cohesive and coordinated approach in their efforts to adhere to national net zero targets and decarbonise the UK Fire Sector estate, as well as creating a central repository of data, analytics, tools and guidance documents to assist in the development and implementation of a national decarbonisation strategy.
- 2.5 More specifically, the members of the Task and Finish Group have been exploring various methods of improving the UK Fire Sector's success in accessing central funding opportunities, namely the Low Carbon Skills Fund ('LCSF') and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme ('PSDS') which are currently administered by Salix Finance Ltd on behalf of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

### ***Stakeholder Engagement Process***

- 2.6 As part of this initiative, the NFCC FM & Construction National Category Lead sought to introduce a nationally aligned decarbonisation consultancy opportunity to support individual Fire and Rescue Services in accessing the capability and capacity they may require in achieving their carbon reduction and sustainability aspirations.
- 2.7 Following the completion of an extensive engagement process, which entailed the publication of an engagement questionnaire to Fire and Rescue Services, in-depth deliberations with a multitude of key external stakeholders (namely Public Buying Organisations, multi-disciplinary consultancy companies and members of the wider Emergency Services community), as well as case studies and lessons learned obtained from Fire and Rescue Services who had previously submitted PSDS funding applications, the Task and Finish Group approved the commissioning of a National Decarbonisation Consultancy Contract by way of a Direct Award to Faithful+Gould under Lot 1 (Complete Service Solutions) of the Pagabo Professional Services in Construction and Premises Framework Agreement.

### ***Contract Primary Objective and Term***

- 2.8 The appointment of a single national multi-disciplinary consultancy company will enable the formation of a true collaboration between the UK Fire Sector and the appointed consultant in designing a national decarbonisation operating model and supporting the successful

implementation of a centralised approach in the planning, funding and delivery of energy efficiency and decarbonisation projects, as well as contributing to the upskilling of UK Fire Sector staff with the view of reducing dependency levels on external advisors; the latter being a primary Home Office target in respect of the FM & Construction category of spend.

- 2.9 The call-off contract between the NFCC (acting as the Contracting Authority on behalf of its Fire and Rescue Service members) and Faithful+Gould was entered into on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 for an initial period of two (2) years with an option to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months.
- 2.10 Further information and access to the call-off contract and supporting documentation can be found in the NFCC National Procurement Hub's website (<https://www.nfcc-procurementhub.org.uk/our-work/fm-construction/nfcc-national-decarbonisation-consultancy-services-contract/>)
- 2.11 Please note that, due to the commercial sensitivity, Schedule 2 (Consultant's Proposal) and Schedule 4 (Schedule of Rates) of the call-off contract can be provided upon request (relevant contact details can be found in the aforementioned link).

#### ***Contract Customer Platform***

- 2.12 The intended primary customer platform is the UK Fire Sector, however in full acknowledgment and support of our duty to seek and promote collaboration across the wider Bluelight Sector, the National Decarbonisation Consultancy Services Contract shall be available for use by other Bluelight organisations.

#### ***Fire and Rescue Services***

- 2.13 Interested Fire and Rescue Services will be able to enter into individual 'Work Orders' directly with the Consultant for the purpose of commissioning services across any one of the three (3) contract scope tiers at various times as and when needed (further information on the scope can be found below). All Work Orders will be subject to the same contract terms and schedule of rates, which have been agreed with the appointed consultant at a national level, therefore satisfying the Home Office / NFCC target for greater standardisation and aggregation of spend.

#### ***Other Bluelight Sector Organisations***

- 2.14 The same set of standardised call-off contract terms which have been agreed between the NFCC and Faithful+Gould can be used by other non-Fire Bluelight Sector organisations who will be able to join the National Decarbonisation Programme by a. formally executing the call-off contract (signature/countersignature process) and b. following that commission services across any one of the three (3) contract scope tiers at various times as and when needed by entering into individual Work Orders
- 2.15 For the purpose of ensuring effective programme and resources management, in some cases screening and prioritisation of Work Orders may be required.
- 2.16 The NFCC FM & Construction National Category Lead, with support from the NFCC FM & Construction National Category Sponsor, has been actively promoting this initiative across the Bluelight Sector via the NFCC National Procurement Hub website, various social media platforms and relevant energy publications.

#### ***Introduction to Faithful+Gould***

- 2.17 Faithful+Gould (trading as AtkinsRéalis since October 2023) is a world-leading professional consultancy offering a variety of services including project and programme management, cost management, building surveying, health and safety, and sustainability consultancy. They have

specialist teams throughout the UK covering multiple sectors such as local authority, central government, bluelight, defence, property, transportation and many more.

**“Our Purpose:** Engineering a better future for our planet and its people”

**“Our Vision:** We create sustainable solutions that connect people, data and technology to design, deliver and operate the most complex projects”

2.18 Faithful+Gould’s Sustainability Technical Leader, as well as the company’s wider active sustainability community for collaboration, technical consistency and innovation, ensure that sustainability best practice is embedded throughout all services and projects delivered for clients across the UK public and private sector.

2.19 Some of the sustainability advisory services that Faithful+Gould currently offer include (but are not limited to):

- Organisational sustainability strategy;
- Sustainability Funding Strategies;
- Energy Audits;
- Net Zero Advisory (new build and retrofit: "**Decarbonomics**");
- Carbon Technical Advisory;
- Whole Life Services (cost and carbon);
- Sustainability Planning Documentation; and
- ESG reporting

2.20 Faithful+Gould provided the following statement in support of the first national decarbonisation collaborative initiative to be delivered by the NFCC, NFEG and the Task and Finish Group:

*“The built environment accounts for around 40% of UK carbon emissions, and there is a lot of work to do to reach the government target of net zero carbon by 2050. Faithful+Gould is extremely passionate in supporting all organisations in reducing carbon emissions, and hit Government targets.*

*Faithful+Gould are very excited to exercise both our technical expertise and passion to support NFCC, NFEG, the Task and Finish Group, as well as the wider blue-light sector in delivering National Energy Consultancy Services. The aim of our appointment is to provide expert advice, guidance as well as the structure and governance in the planning and delivery of professional consultancy services. We are to become the one Faithful+Gould and Fire & Rescue / Blue Light programme team to decarbonise the estate through reducing energy consumption, changing user behaviours and improving sustainability measures.*

*Faithful+Gould’s organisation purpose is to: ‘Create sustainable solutions that connect people, data and technology to design, deliver and operate the most complex projects’.*

*Our vision is to: ‘Engineer a better future for our planet and its people’.*

*This programme sits squarely in what we strive to do as an organisation, and we are delighted to contribute and be part of the Fire & Rescue Service’ and the wider blue-light sector’s journey”.*

### 3.0. Contract Scope, Deliverables and Benefits

- 3.1 Having due regard to the fact that Fire and Rescue Services and wider Bluelight Sector organisations are in different parts of their decarbonisation journey, they have differing budgetary constraints and different levels of internal capacity and capability, the National Decarbonisation Consultancy Services Contract has been structured across three (3) delivery tiers as follows:
- **Tier 1** - Energy data and carbon emissions analysis, decarbonisation planning, feasibility assessments, and modelling of decarbonisation and energy efficiency opportunities;
  - **Tier 2** - End to end consultancy support in the preparation and submission of funding applications; and
  - **Tier 3** - End to end consultancy support in the design and delivery of decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects.
- 3.2 Interested organisations will also be able to commission ancillary services, as part of their individual Work Orders, providing that such services are within the specification scope of Lot 1 of the Pagabo Framework Agreement.
- 3.3 A national operating decarbonisation model will be designed by Faithful+Gould, whose purpose will be to ensure that the methodology in identifying decarbonisation interventions, their prioritisation, identification and selection of funding routes, through to the procurement and engagement of local (where possible) technical specialists, as well as the management of supply-chain partners are all done in a joined-up, informed and transparent process.
- 3.4 The NFCC National Decarbonisation Consultancy Services Contract is managed at a national level by a newly formed and dedicated Programme Management Office ('PMO'), which is resourced by Faithful+Gould staff, led by Dan Jermin (Faithful+Gould Programme Lead) and monitored by the NFCC FM & Construction National Category Lead in accordance with the contract management and performance measurement framework set out in the call-off contract pack.
- 3.5 All reporting data that will be made available and further developed by Faithful+Gould in respect of each interested organisation's Work Order/s will be regularly exported into a national NFCC estates decarbonisation dashboard, thus enabling the Home Office, the NFCC and client organisations to have access to key management information (including but not limited to geographical locations and types of decarbonisation projects, level of government funding received to date on a per region basis, carbon footprint metrics (before and after) and examples of best practice (as well as lessons learned) with the view of informing the production of a wider Bluelight Sector decarbonisation strategy.
- 3.6 A Benefits Review Plan will also be developed in collaboration with Faithful+Gould for the purpose of measuring the realisation of those benefits which are anticipated to be achieved throughout the contract term, both at a national and a client organisation level, including but not limited to realised carbon savings versus estimated carbon savings, Social Value benefits, improved carbon literacy and level of process savings achieved as a result of the aggregation of demand under a single contractual arrangement.

### 4.0. Link with other Bluelight Sector Initiatives

- 4.1 The NFCC FM & Construction National Category Lead and members of the Task and Finish Group regularly engage with key internal and external stakeholders and actively contribute to wider Bluelight Sector initiatives. Namely, this National Decarbonisation Consultancy Services

Contract forms part of the NFCC Environment Sustainability and Climate Change Toolkit, which was developed by the NFCC Environment Sustainability Committee (led by Ben Brooks, Chief Fire Officer, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service) with support from members of the Emergency Services Environment and Sustainability Group ('EESG') and is aimed at providing the UK Fire Sector with a range of shared research, data, information, good practice and case studies, thus assisting in the creation of a more informed, evidence-based approach across all Services.

**5.0. Closing Statement from the NFCC Estates Sponsor and FM & Construction National Category Sponsor (Mark Arkwell, Deputy Chief Fire Officer – Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service)**

*"The emergency services sector rightly have ambition to meet or exceed Government's net-zero target, ensuring we demonstrate leadership in playing our part in addressing the climate emergency.*

*However, real barriers hinder this progress at local levels where the specialist capability is not widely available to assist emergency services in accessing the vital financial support required to deliver on these aspirations. Assistance to help navigate the challenges of accessibility is vital to making a tangible step-change for the majority of blue-light services".*

**Prepared on behalf of the NFCC National Procurement Hub**

**Elli Nikolaou – NFCC FM & Construction National Category Lead  
NFCC Procurement Hub**

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