



A project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) in partnership with RAPID NI, Inishowen Development Partnership, Derg Valley Care & Spraioi agus Spórt

Healthy Active Rural Communities – HARC Youth Summer Programme within Sperrin DEA

Invitation Document

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Introduction to the HARC project

The **Healthy Active Rural Communities (HARC) Project – “A New Beginning for Rural Communities”** will deliver a suite of intervention programmes designed to improve the health and wellbeing of over **15,000 rural citizens** across Donegal, Derry-Londonderry and Tyrone.

The project will galvanise rural communities by:

1. Increasing the provision of key family support and wellness services across remote and peripheral rural areas; and
2. Developing and building the capacity of rural social enterprises to further develop and sustain the HARC interventions in the longer term.

Main Objectives

The HARC Project will strengthen the rural communities of **Inishowen, Faughan, Sperrin and Derg** by:

1. Improving the health & wellbeing of rural citizens;
2. Utilising and preserving natural rural assets for family health and wellbeing services;
3. Sustaining services developed by building the long-term capacity of local social enterprises.

Project Outputs

The Project will deliver **3 jointly developed solutions**:

- **Solution 1:** Creation of a Rural Family Support Programme (prenatal, early years, parenting, youth transitions, carers, older people, disability & health support).
- **Solution 2:** Delivery of nature-based health & wellbeing programmes (community gardening, walking, sea swimming, outdoor therapy, eco initiatives).
- **Solution 3:** Development of rural social enterprises (mentoring, training, shared services, social impact support).

This will enable:

- Over **15,000 rural citizens** to access new community services.
- **15 rural social enterprises** to receive capacity building & development support.

PEACEPLUS Context

PEACEPLUS is a unique cross-border structural funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. It represents the European Union's commitment to supporting the peace process across the region, with the first PEACE Programme launched in 1995. Information is available on <https://www.seupb.eu/current-programmes/peaceplus>

PEACEPLUS represents an investment of €1.44b in support of projects that promote peace and reconciliation and contribute to cross-border economic and territorial development. It will contribute a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland and will leave a lasting legacy.

PEACEPLUS is supported by the European Union, the UK Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Irish Government. It is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). PEACEPLUS comprises six themes, which encompass 22 individual investment areas. This project is funded under Theme 4, Investment Area 4.2 PEACEPLUS Rural Regeneration and Social Inclusion. This investment area will support social, economic and environmental projects which contribute to the creation of healthy communities in rural areas. By adopting a strengths-based approach, the programme will contribute to the creation of a more balanced Programme Area, in which our rural communities thrive and reach their full potential through health and wellbeing focused solutions.

All Tenderers must commit to four Horizontal Principles:

- Respect for Fundamental Rights (Accessibility)
- Equality Between Men and Women (Equality)
- Taking steps to prevent discrimination (Non-discrimination)
- Promoting Sustainable Development. (Sustainable Development)

Project should take positive, pro-active action on these. They should be actively inclusive and accessible. Similarly, they should make a positive contribution to Sustainable Development (at the very least, the principle of 'Do No Significant Harm')

Specification

The HARC project partnership led by RAPID, are seeking submissions from suitable suppliers to co-ordinate a summer youth programme in the Sperrin DEA. The successful bidder will be required to provide a comprehensive summer programme of activities for young people aged between 8 and 16 years old who reside within the Sperrin DEA of the Derry City & Strabane District Council area.

The youth summer programme must provide the following as a minimum:

- 178 participants aged between 8 and 16 taking part in activities
- Participants must be recruited from all geographical wards of the Sperrin DEA
- 12 days of activities must take place

Proposals to Tender

The Tender should set out the following information as a minimum;

- Your understanding of the brief
- The methodology, tools and techniques you will employ
- Examples of similar assignments undertaken by your organisation.
- An indicative timetable & project plan (The Project Plan should be costed)

Any other information you deem to be relevant

Time table:

- **Start Date:** 1 June 2026
- **End Date:** 31st September 2026
- RAPID reserves the right to **review the contract at any time**, subject to funding.

Verification visits will be carried out by RAPID throughout the contract period and **monitoring documentation** will be presented to the successful applicant.

Value of Contract

The maximum budget available for this work is £38,400 per annum, subject to project management meetings, minimum targets being achieved and completion of the monitoring and evaluation documentation.

Payment:

Payment will be made in two stages:

- Stage One – following completion of all contract documentation
- Stage Two – following the registration of participants

Evaluation / Award Criteria:

A two stage process will be used to assess tenders.

Stage 1 of the assessment process will be an examination of the experience of each submitting party

Qualification Criteria	Mark
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Tenderer shall effect and maintain insurance necessary to cover their liabilities under this Contract. Copies of all valid insurances should be sought from the successful Tenderer.	Pass/Fail

<p>Company Experience</p> <p>The Tenderer shall supply a list of two similar programmes, carried out within the past five years.</p>	<p>Pass/Fail</p>
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Tenders who provide the relevant information requested will receive a pass mark and move on to stage two and their submission will then be evaluated against the following criteria.

A pass in this assessment is where the tenderer has fully demonstrated an ability to meet all of the minimum standards of the criteria.

A fail in this assessment is where the tenderer has failed to fully demonstrate an ability to meet all of the minimum standards of criteria. These tenderers will be excluded from the competition at the point of failure.

Stage 2 – Award Criteria

All tenderers will be assessed against the Quality and Cost evaluation criteria listed within this section. Tenderers must address each criterion fully.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to provide tenderers with an accurate description of the requirements, tenderers should form their own conclusions about the methods and resources needed to meet those requirements. RAPID cannot accept responsibility for tenderers' interpretation of the requirement.

Tenderers must include a Pricing Schedule. Tenderers **must only** provide pricing information on the Pricing Schedule and pricing information **must not** be contained in their qualitative/technical proposal.

Technical Criteria	Weighting
<p>Q1. Tenderers should provide details of the proposed methodology and approach to assignment. This should include (but is not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of how your proposal meets the HARC project requirements as outlined within the specifications (see page 3). • Details of how you will deliver your proposal to ensure it meets all of the HARC project requirements. • Details of quality systems and controls that will be used in the delivery of the project, including proposals for keeping RAPID updated • Details of any aspects of your proposal that exceeds the HARC project specified requirements, and which adds value to your bid. • Details of any other relevant information that supports your proposal. 	30%
<p>Q2. This section should also include a project plan detailing the activities to be progressed and anticipated timescales for completion of each, including proposed, earliest start date and expected time frame for delivery of the assignment.</p>	15%
<p>Q3. A participant recruitment plan to outline in detail how the participants will be recruited and registered to ensure the tender specifications on page 4 are met</p>	15%
<p>Q4. Social Value. Suppliers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with the Sperrin Local Community Growth Partnership Board • Demonstrate Social Inclusion and Community Engagement - Encourage participation in community events, volunteering, and local decision-making. Develop programmes that promote community cohesion. • Encourage access to support services - Promote awareness of services delivered locally among participants. Facilitate transport and outreach to remove barriers for rural and isolated residents. 	20%
<p>Cost A breakdown of costs should be provided. Costs should be inclusive of VAT. Anticipated expenses should be identified.</p>	20%

Contract award will be based on most advantageous tender (MAT) to RAPID.

Tenderers **must not** make assumptions that RAPID has prior knowledge of their organisation or their service provision. Tenderers will **only** be evaluated on the information provided in their tender proposal.

Award Criteria Scoring

Methodology Q1 weighting of 6

Methodology Q2 weighting of 3

Methodology Q3 weighting of 3

Methodology Q4 weighting of 4

Methodology will be scored based on the below table. Total score will be determined by multiplying score provided (from 0 – 5) by the weighting as detailed above

Band	Comments
5	Fully detailed evidence provided, very minor concerns on detail, relevance or complexity
4	Detailed evidence provided, some concerns on detail, relevance or complexity
3	Reasonable evidence provided, lacking in detail, relevance or complexity
2	Limited evidence provided, significant concerns on detail, relevance or complexity
1	Little or no evidence provided, very significant concerns on detail, relevance or complexity
0	Failed to submit details or to address question

Threshold Score

If a tenderer scores 0, 1 or 2 in the following qualitative criteria, Q1, then it shall be deemed that they have failed to meet the specification and their tender will be eliminated from the competition at the point of failure.

Cost Evaluation

For those tenders that pass the qualitative assessment, the following formula will be used to evaluate Cost:

1. Lowest cost tendered will be awarded the maximum score available (20%) and
2. To calculate the score for the costs submitted by the remaining tenderers, the following formula will be applied – the lowest tendered cost divided by the tenderer's price, multiplied by the cost weighting (20%)

Tenderers should note that RAPID is not obliged to accept the lowest cost of any tender.

Final Score – combination of Quality and Cost

The tenderer with the highest overall final score (Quality and Cost) will become the preferred supplier.

In the event of a tied score between the first and second place bids, the contract will be awarded to the tenderer with the highest quality score.

Abnormally Low Tenders

Where the overall tendered amount appears to be abnormally low, the tenderer will be required to provide further written details of the constituent elements of the overall tendered amount or the tendered rates or any other information considered to be relevant.

Any failure to provide such information, where requested, may exclude the tender from further consideration. If, having considered the information provided, RAPID is of the view that either the tendered total of the prices is abnormally low or any tendered amounts are abnormally low, the tender may be rejected in accordance with PA2023 Section 19

The RAPID reserves the unconditional right to:

1. **Withdraw or Cancel** this Tender process at any time, for any reason, without prior notice.
2. **Reject all submissions** received, even if they meet the minimum criteria and specifications set forth in this document.
3. **Decline to award a Contract** to any Tenderer, even the lowest-priced or highest-scoring bidder, if the Buyer determines that doing so is in its best interest.
4. **Suspend or modify** the procurement schedule, specifications, or process.

In the event of cancellation, rejection of all submissions, or a decision not to award, RAPID shall incur **no liability** whatsoever to any Tenderer for any costs, expenses, losses, damages, or liabilities incurred by the Tenderer in the preparation or submission of its response. The issuance of this Tender does not constitute a commitment by RAPID to award a contract or to proceed with the procurement described herein.

Return Date:

Please return all tender documentation by 12 noon on Thursday 30th April.

Documentation can be emailed to Caroline Devlin at caroline@rapidni.com or posted to:

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