

SUPER SLOW WAY LINEAR PARK – Green Book Business Case – Strategic Outline Case

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 29th April 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

Super Slow Way seeks to commission a Green Book compliant strategic outline case for four development sites along the proposed Super Slow Way Linear Park in Pennine Lancashire.

2. BACKGROUND

The Super Slow Way Linear Park is an exciting, pioneering, and deliverable vision and programme of change conceived for a 23-mile (37-kilometre) section of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal corridor. A project that seeks to marry physical improvements to landscape, infrastructure, and buildings and to expansive programmes of environmental, cultural, leisure, educational and economic activity.

Completed in 1816, this waterway, the original ‘super highway’ of the Industrial Revolution, that once transformed Pennine Lancashire can today breathe new life and deliver transformational change to the area. It provides the backbone for a new Linear Park which aims to reveal and repurpose this great 19th century infrastructure, harnessing the same pioneering local energy to create new employment, educational, cultural, recreational, environmental, transport and tourism potential.

The vision for the Linear Park is much greater than the sum of its parts - a blueprint for a post-Covid recovery in Pennine Lancashire; for a carbon neutral future, for a resilient economy and for an enhanced quality of life for communities in a rich post-industrial and bio-diverse landscape redefined as a linear heritage, recreational and cultural resource. The Super Slow Way Linear Park concept was identified in the Lancashire LEP’s Cultural Strategy as a key cultural project for Lancashire.

A 2021 feasibility study and economic impact assessment, “Lancashire Linear Park: Unlocking the Potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: The Case for Change” sets out the vision for the Linear Park. The study has helped to recently secure funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund to allow the project to be developed to the next stage.

Three strands of activity are being developed in parallel with the funding: ‘Green Book’ business cases for four sites along the canal corridor (this commission), landscape strategies for the canal and a series of prototyping projects.

3. SUPER SLOW WAY, Hosted by the Canal & River Trust,

Super Slow Way is a cultural development programme in Pennine Lancashire that uses the Leeds & Liverpool Canal as a vehicle for bringing people together on a waterway that everyone shares. Their work is shaped by and delivered with local residents from Blackburn to Pendle, working alongside artists, designers, manufacturers and growers, in fact anyone whose energy and

imagination can help build more resilient and sustainable communities.
www.superslowway.org.uk

4. FEASIBILITY STUDY

Commissioned by the Super Slow Way, Arts Council England, Canal & River Trust, Creative Lancashire and Lancashire County Council, the 2021 feasibility study and economic impact assessment, "Lancashire Linear Park: Unlocking the Potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: The Case for Change" presented the vision, opportunities, and ideas for the canal corridor. It also provided an economic assessment of the Linear Park so that the next steps towards implementation could be taken. The study was led by Publica Associates together with economic consultant, Buro Happold. The Feasibility Study identified the need for key "Hubs" along the length of the canal. The four development sites which will be the focus of the Strategic Outline Case assessments are the sites that have been identified as potential "Hubs"

5. PROJECT SCOPE

Due to funding restrictions, timescales are tight. The commission will run from May 2022 to the end of September 2022, resulting in four individual Strategic Outline Cases; one for each development site. The 4 Locations are as Follows:

Imperial Mill, Gorse Street, Blackburn, BB1 3EU

Grade II Listed Spinning Mill dating back to the early 1900s. Currently in Private ownership. The Local Authority have been in discussion with the owner regarding acquisition. The site is on a key gateway location in Blackburn and has recently gained increased prominence due to reconfigured road system. Approximately 100,000 sq ft.

Hargreaves Warehouse, Blackburn Road, Church, Accrington BB5 4HU

Grade II Listed former goods warehouse dating back to the 1830's and is approximately 12,000 sq ft. It is currently in private ownership and largely derelict. A Building Preservation Trust has shown interest in taking the building over and spearheading the restoration. The council are supportive. A stakeholder consultation was convened last year to consider potential future uses for the building.

Inn on the Wharf, Weavers Triangle, Manchester Road, Burnley BB11 1JG

Grade II Listed building in the historically significant Weavers Triangle. The Inn on the Wharf is in private ownership and until recently was used as a public house until the pandemic. It has been empty ever since, but the increased presence of UCLAN in the area offer opportunities for the site.

Gasometer, Hollin Bank, Brierfield, Nelson, BB9 5NG

This visually striking gas holder dates back to the late 1800's and is owned by National Grid. The site is for sale and dialogue is ongoing with the owners agents. Some conceptual work for future uses was recently undertaken the Manchester School of Architecture.

As can be seen the sites are all very different in size and scale and accordingly they will require the preparation of a separate business case for each site. However, the unifying factor is that they will all act as “Hubs” for the Linear Park

The purpose of the commission is to develop, to the next level of detail from the Feasibility Study, the potential scope and required level of investment to realise the Pennine Lancashire Linear Park. Whilst no specific funding streams have been identified, the four Strategic Outline Cases should develop the evidence-base to support applications for future funding.

We are asking interested parties to provide the following information:

- 1) We would like to know that you understand the Green Book process. Please give a brief description of how you will approach the commission and what areas you will consider/address in preparing the Strategic Outline Case.
- 2) Please provide a maximum of four case studies demonstrating experience of delivering Green Book Strategic Outline Case appraisals, preferably for Cultural, Arts or Heritage projects.
- 3) Please describe your team and the role and experience of the consultants in the project, identifying the lead consultant.
- 4) Please give an explanation of the allocation of resource from May until September and confirm you have the capacity to complete the commission in the required timescales.
- 5) Please provide contact details including full postal address, personal email address and mobile telephone number of the main contact and current website address.
- 6) Please state your Fee for delivering the commission.

6. SUBMISSION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

Timetable	Date
RFP published	29 th April 2022
Deadline for questions	4 th May 2022
Issue of response to questions	6 th May 2022
Deadline for receipt of proposals by email	10th May 2022, 5.00 pm
Decision	13 th May 2022
Commission start date	16 st May 2022
Commission end date (16 weeks)	30 th September 2022

7. DRAFT CONTRACT

A Draft Contract will be shared with shortlisted Applicants

8. SUBMISSION

Please submit your Proposal to linearpark@superslowway.org.uk via WeTransfer as a single PDF document

9. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS Included as an appendices

- i) The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park: Unlocking the Potential of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: The Case for Change by Publica (2021)
- ii) The Pennine Lancashire Linear Park – Supporting Material: Maps by Publica (2021)
- iii) Lancashire Enterprise Partnership’s Cultural Investment Strategy (2020)