

# CCIN Consultancy Services DPS

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# What is a DPS?

- DPS stands for **Dynamic Purchasing System**.
- It is an electronic system used to purchase goods, works or services.
- Unlike a traditional framework, suppliers can apply to join at any time
- It is an 'open market' solution designed to provide buyers with access to a pool of **pre-qualified suppliers**.
- Particularly suited to fast-moving or innovative markets.
- It is currently being advertised on the Chest e-procurement portal ([www.the-chest.org.uk](http://www.the-chest.org.uk)).

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# The Difference Between a Framework Agreement and a DPS

	<b>DPS</b>	<b>Framework agreement</b>
<b>Accessible to SMEs and start-ups</b>	Yes, due to the lower threshold.	Not really, due to the restrictions it favours larger companies.
<b>Joining suppliers</b>	Suppliers can join at any time.	Suppliers can join within a limited application window
<b>Number of suppliers</b>	Unlimited suppliers in the qualification stage.	The number of suppliers is decided before procurement.
<b>Pricing</b>	Flexible, the price is determined at the contract award stage.	There is a fixed price, determined at the tender award.

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## Advantages of a DPS

- **Quick and flexible** – faster procurement timescales than traditional routes.
- **Always open to new suppliers**, enabling continuous access to innovation.
- **No cap on supplier numbers**, creating a wider and more competitive market.
- **More accessible for SMEs and VCSEs** – lower barriers to entry.
- **Improved value for money** through ongoing competition.
- **Fully transparent and auditable**, supporting good governance.

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# CCIN Consultancy DPS

- DPS is split into 2 lots:
  - Lot 1 – Policy Development & Testing
  - Lot 2 – Capacity Building

- Authorities based on requirements will decide which lot best fits

## Membership of the DPS

Contact details for each of our DPS Members

- The DPS period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 — 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2029.
- The potential maximum value of the DPS is £30m.

# How to use the DPS

- The DPS is hosted on the Chest portal
- Authorities not using Chest may use their own procurement portal
- A mini-competition (tender) must be run for each requirement
- Direct award is **not** permitted

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- All suppliers on the relevant lot must be invited to bid

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# Examples – Lot 1: Policy Development & Testing

Suppliers may be invited to:

- Design and prototype **innovative cooperative policies** across multiple service areas(e.g. housing, adult social care, youth services, food systems, climate action).
- Provide **external challenge and expert insight** to rethink how councils deliver services in line with cooperative values.
- Facilitate **co-design with communities**, officers, and members to develop new policy approaches.
- **Run policy labs**, discovery phases, and rapid testing of new service models.
- Develop and **test alternative delivery models** that shift power to communities and users.
- **Support collaborative policy development** across multiple CCIN member authorities.

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## Examples – Lot 2: Capacity Building

Suppliers may be invited to:

- **Build internal capability** to deliver cooperative approaches at scale.
- **Deliver skills development**, training, and coaching for officers, members, and partners.
- **Support councils to become leaders of public sector reform** through cooperative practice.
- **Strengthen organisational and community infrastructure** to sustain new approaches.
- **Develop toolkits**, frameworks, or playbooks to help replicate successful initiatives.
- Provide support to embed learning and **ensure long-term legacy**, not just pilots

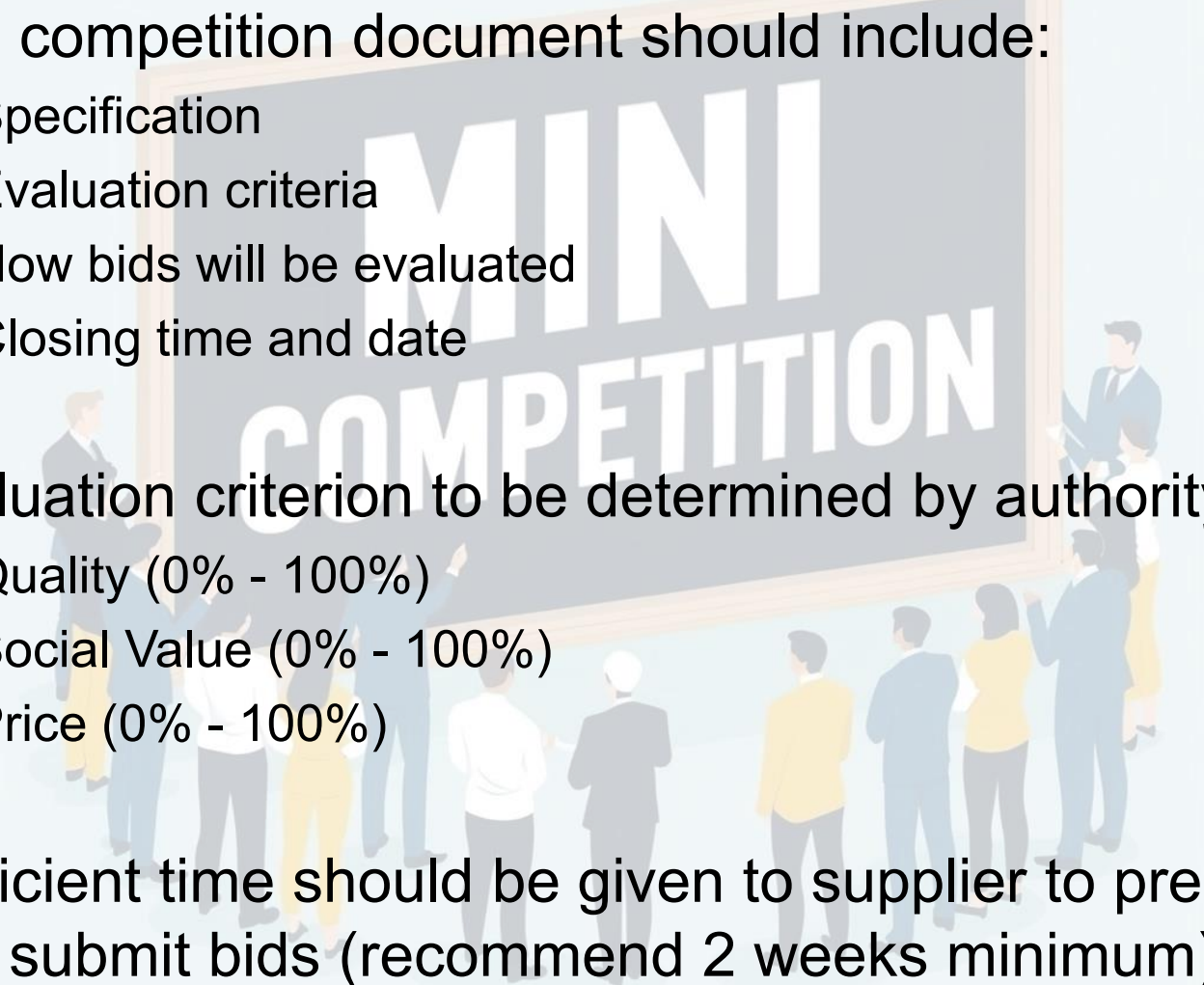
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# What Does a Good Project Specification Look Like?

- Clear problem or opportunity – what are you trying to change or improve?
- Context and ambition – why this matters locally and how it links to cooperative values?
- Defined outcomes – what success will look like (not just activities)
- Scope and constraints – what is in / out of scope, timescales, and budget range.
- Expectations of collaboration – who suppliers will work with and how.
- Approach to learning and impact – how progress and cooperative impact will be measured.
- Legacy and sustainability – how skills, learning, or capacity will remain after the project.

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# Running a Mini Competition

- Mini competition document should include:
    - Specification
    - Evaluation criteria
    - How bids will be evaluated
    - Closing time and date
  - Evaluation criterion to be determined by authority:
    - Quality (0% - 100%)
    - Social Value (0% - 100%)
    - Price (0% - 100%)
  - Sufficient time should be given to supplier to prepare and submit bids (recommend 2 weeks minimum)
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- A group of business people in professional attire are gathered around a large, framed sign that reads "MINI COMPETITION" in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. The background is a light blue gradient with a subtle pattern of business people.

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# Evaluation

- Bids must be evaluated strictly in accordance with the published specification and evaluation criteria.
- All bidders treated equally and fairly, with no changes to criteria once the competition has launched.
- Evaluation should be outcome-focused, considering quality, approach, value for money, and delivery.
- Clear records kept of scores, rationale, and moderation decisions.
- Acceptance and rejection letters issued setting out the outcome.
- Let Oldham Know! 😊

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QUESTION?