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**AUDE Invitation to Tender Document**

**Climate Adaptation and Resilience**

**About us**

The Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) works in collaboration with estates and facilities management professionals at universities throughout the UK, Republic of Ireland and overseas. Our service is diverse, providing the opportunity for members to share knowledge and access the support they need to address industry issues, and meet the individual and universal objectives which are specific to the higher education sector. We have 4,000 members from 185 institutions.

**Introduction**This tender brief outlines the scope of work, specifications, and expectations for the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Guidance project. The project is being undertaken by AUDE, and we are inviting qualified and experienced contractors to submit tenders for the work.

**Scope of Work**  
**The Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) is seeking proposals for a project to develop guidance on climate change adaptation and resilience for UK universities.**

**The project will be co-created with AUDE and will involve workshops with the sector, review of existing frameworks and datasets, identification and analysis of case studies, and development of a set of recommendations.**

**The proposed deliverables include;**

* **A pdf report, designed to AUDE’s corporate branding featuring logos from both organisations. This will be uploaded onto AUDE’s website for members to view and download. This is typically set behind member login.**
* **A live member webinar, no longer than 90 minutes, following the final issue and launch of the pdf, summer 2025, date TBC. AUDE will organise the session and be responsible for booking members on**
* **Monthly progress reports by email to AUDE’s strategic project manager**
* **Attendance at one sustainability advisory group committee teams meeting, likely to be May 2025 to provide an update and gauge feedback on progress/drafts.**

**Background**

The UK higher education estate as a whole, the facilities within it, and the people who work, study and support it, are increasingly experiencing the impacts of climate change. These impacts include shocks and stresses relating to higher temperatures, changing precipitation patterns and more extreme weather events. For example, heatwaves, floods, drought, wind storms and heavy snowfall. Different types of universities and facilities in different parts of the UK experience these impacts in different ways. And different groups of staff, students and suppliers experience these impacts in different ways too.

Key issues relate to:

* insurance costs (Building fabric, rainwater goods and drainage issues)
* business continuity;
* student experiences;
* cost of remediation post-impacts;
* university reputation; and
* health and welfare of staff and students.

The challenge of how universities, and their Directors of Estates, can adapt and be more resilient to climate change impacts is directly relevant to three of the Association of University Directors of Estates’ (AUDE) strategic themes, namely ‘Sustainability’, ‘Innovation and evolution’, and ‘Efficiency, effectiveness and engagement’. The challenge is also relevant to some of the sub-themes in ‘Professional development.

There is a growing sense within the UK education sector as a whole that more practical guidance and cost-effective action is urgently needed on implementing effective climate adaptation and resilience measures, and nature based solutions, for academic, residential and other university buildings (for example sports centres, GPs, commercial spaces), grounds and landscaping and supporting infrastructure such as drainage, water and energy services, data and telecoms. It’s also important to consider upstream and downstream drainage infrastructure which may be controlled by other entities

An equivalent, transferable effort is now needed within the UK higher education sector, specifically for the buildings, grounds and infrastructure of university campuses.

We would expect to see reference and signposting to existing resources already available and to add value to them by:

* Drawing on experiences within the UK Higher Education sector;
* Drawing on case studies from higher education institutions outside the UK;
* Referencing and highlighting best practice from other sectors;
* Taking a regional approach where local situations may require different responses, e.g. coastal, upland, etc.
* Align with other and current work under commission by AUDE including, but not limited to, the decarbonisation and legacy buildings work.

**Tender response**

Based on the above requirements, we would like bidders to set out the following in their response:

* Project approach and anticipated amount of effort required in days
* The names and day rates of proposed consultants
* A short (500-word max) bio of each consultant who will undertake the work
* Provide at least one example of similar work undertaken elsewhere
* The name and contact details of two referees who are able to comment on your ability to deliver
* Expectations on engaging with AUDE members and what this looks like

**Deliverables**

* A highly accessible and succinct pdf report setting out clear potential actions and practical measures for implementation, set in accordance with AUDE brand guidelines.
* One, online presentation to the project steering group before completion to report progress and gauge feedback. Arrangements to be made by AUDE office.
* A progress paper for the AUDE executive committee meeting, due late February 2025
* Regular updates directly to AUDE’s strategic project manager as directed
* A live webinar to showcase the work to members lead by the winning organisation, up to 90 minutes. Arrangements and contact with members to be made by AUDE office.

**Timescales**

ITT responses: 31 January 2025  
Appointment: 14 March 2025  
Project kick off: 28 March 2025  
PDF output received: 4 July 2025  
Live webinar; TBC summer 2025

**Submissions and selection process**

Interested bidders will submit their final response by 31stJanuary 2025 to cheryl@aude.ac.uk.

Bids will be considered by the AUDE sustainability advisory group and a final decision will be made during their next committee meeting in February 2025. Their decision will be ratified by the AUDE full executive committee board in March 2025.

**Queries and points of contacts**  
All queries during your submission should be directed to [cheryl@aude.ac.uk](mailto:cheryl@aude.ac.uk), strategic project manager. Clarifications will be shared.

Any additional contact with members or attendance at AUDE events after appointment will be subject to our approval, availability and associated costs where applicable

**Evaluation criteria**

The following mark scheme will apply:  
40% approach and relevance of consultant(s)’ bios

40% evidence of undertaking similar work elsewhere

20% overall costs