

# INVITATION TO TENDER

## Developing a Crofting Development Plan for the Isle of Eigg

Closing date for tenders: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024



### 1. Background

The Isle of Eigg sits 10 miles off Scotland's West Coast - five miles by three miles, it has a fascinating history, superb wildlife and vibrant community. One of Scotland's first community buyouts and the first island buyout, Eigg has been owned/managed by the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust (IEHT) since 1997.

IEHT was established with core objectives of creating opportunity for social and economic development, housing and infrastructure, and to conserve Eigg's natural and cultural heritage to ensure sustainable development, delivering local needs locally to retain a viable and empowered community.

Eigg has a long history of crofting and currently has twenty-one crofts, split across two townships. IEHT, working in partnership with the current crofting community, has identified a need to address what a future role of crofting could look like on the island, given the existing challenges the crofting community is experiencing.

### 2. Why a Crofting Development plan is needed

The ambition for the project has come from the Crofting Community. There is enthusiasm and a drive to explore what the future of crofting could look like on Eigg.

There is a strong message for IEHT to act on the direction given by Eigg residents, to develop a more cohesive vision for the future of crofting on Eigg, with a wider strategy to support our crofting community. This is not to be 'reinventing the wheel' or delivering a 'top-down' message but working with crofters and with others interested to see how we can encourage sharing, learning and ultimately secure a future.

Traditional crofting on Eigg today is much less prevalent than it was 30 years ago and many of the present-day crofters have different visions for the future of crofting. Most of the present crofters are in their 50s/60s and would welcome an increase of younger crofters. There are fewer communal crofting activities, and the grazing committee is presently inactive.

IEHT, together with Eigg's crofters and residents, developed a shared vision for the future of crofting on Eigg:

"To revitalise the Eigg Crofting Community, by encouraging increased use of the croft land, reducing absenteeism and promoting the retention of community owned croft land with a long-term objective to establish and maintain greater access to crofting"(2023).

### **3. Scope of Works**

We are looking for a self-employed contractor to produce a written development plan in collaboration with Eigg's Crofters and IEHT (a partnership including Scottish Wildlife Trust) for the future of Crofting on Eigg. The content of this plan will be researched and developed through:

- Consultation and engagement with existing crofting tenants
- Researching/Engaging specialist advice including current crofting law and practice, agricultural subsidies, and sustainable land use options (e.g., alternative crops, livestock)
- Work with Eigg's Crofting Community, Directors and Staff of IEHT
- Identify and undertake opportunities for learning exchanges with similar sized crofting communities to research best practice and explore new ideas and ways of working.
- Reviewing Eigg's Clean Energy Transition Agenda to see how a new approach to crofting development might contribute to Eigg's ambition to become a carbon net zero island by 2030.
- Liaison with the Crofting Commission, Scottish Crofting Federation, Scottish Land Commission, Scottish Wildlife Trust and other identified stakeholders and external organisations
- Working with the community to help share information on the place of crofting in the Community, and how we can share this information with our Visitors (cultural and economic opportunities).

The main focus of the project is to engage and work primarily with present crofters and how they could develop their crofts. However, this is not to dismiss some direction on how to engage with absentee crofters to explore barriers and future opportunities.

If the contractor is not based on Eigg, it is expected they will make at least six visits to Eigg over the duration of the contract to engage with resident crofters. The information gathered over the course of the contract will be used to produce the written development plan.

You will need to be able to work independently and on your own initiative, as well as working well as part of a small team. You will report to a designated IEHT Director. Regular communication with all stakeholders will also be a key part of the role.

### **4. Development Plan**

The importance of crofting to the economic, social, and culture of Eigg is significant. The development plan should provide clear guidance on how crofting can be shaped and supported into the future.

The development plan should demonstrate how the ambitions and challenges Eigg's resident crofters and stakeholders express during consultation might be supported. It is anticipated these may be the best use of croft land, encouraging and supporting new entrants, diversifying income, and collaborative working to mitigate the impact of climate change.

The development plan will reflect these ambitions and challenges and provide a document that can be adopted and used by the IEHT and the crofting community. It should include:

- A detailed profile of current crofting practice on Eigg, highlighting the current economic, environmental, social, and cultural challenges and opportunities.
- Examples and case studies from other crofting communities relevant to Eigg
- An appraisal of how current crofting practices and ideas for diversification might grow and strengthen crofting on Eigg.
- A summary of available support for existing crofting practices and diversification.
- Identification of key priorities and their associated outcomes and activity for IEHT, for crofters, for SWT and other stakeholders for the next five years.
- An outline of how the plan will be monitored and reviewed.
- An executive summary of the plan for wider dissemination.

## **5. Budget**

The total budget available is £14,000.

Please provide a detailed costing for all activities envisaged within the scope of works which includes all fees, travel and accommodation etc.

## **6. Timescales**

The intention is for the project to run for 9 months in total, and to be complete by the end of January 2025.

Crofters and stakeholder consultation - May to August 2024

Research on development options and support - Sept to Nov 2024

Draft development plan presented to IEHT and crofters - Dec 2024

Final development plan - Jan 2025

## **7. Additional relevant information to the commission**

There are twenty-one crofts on Eigg split between the townships of Cleadale (seventeen crofts) and Cuagach (four crofts). These twenty one crofts include:

- Sixteen which are tenanted
- Five which are owner occupied
- Eight which have absentee tenants/owners

- Seven with cattle/sheep,
- Six who have diversified to include visitor accommodation, grow trees or alternative crops.

The Eigg History Society maintain a crofting museum in Cleadale and have erected interpretation signage around the township outlining some of the history.

## **8. Management of the contract**

The successful contractor will report to an Eigg-based individual nominated by IEHT and the Eigg's crofters. The nominee will manage the contract on behalf of IEHT, agree milestones with IEHT and the crofters, and support the contractor to deliver them. The contractor will provide regular progress reports to the nominee and share with them in person or online with IEHT and Eigg's crofters.

## **9. Submission of Responses**

For any queries, please contact [maggie@isleofeigg.net](mailto:maggie@isleofeigg.net). The question period will run until 19<sup>th</sup> April. Responses should also be submitted to Maggie (email above), 26<sup>th</sup> April.

Applicants who are short-listed should prepare to be available for an online meeting to give a presentation on how they would approach the project.

Details of timescales will be agreed before the Contract is issued. We aim to appoint within one month of the tender return date.

## **10. Procedure for tendering**

IEHT would like to invite a proposal addressing how you would approach the contract.

Tenders will be assessed on a split of 50% Quality and 50% Price.

Quality will be assessed on:

- A good working knowledge of crofting and/or similar types of land use (20%)
- Skills and experience of undertaking similar types of contracts (15%)
- Methodology – how you intend to approach delivering the contract (15%)

This information should be included within your written proposal and comprise no more than four sides of A4. Please also include background of the project lead.

Given the project is grant funded, the project must be delivered this financial year. Please ensure to address the project timeline within your response.

We may also ask for references.

Your fee proposal should include the costs of visits required to Eigg, including travel and accommodation. It should also include the costs of any additional expertise you might bring in.

Please indicate whether your price is inclusive/exclusive of VAT.

## **Tender responses should address:**

### **Skills and experience**

- Good working knowledge of crofting.
- An understanding of the challenges faced by rural communities and sensitivity to the economics, environment, culture, and heritage of such areas.
- Demonstrable ability to build relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, using insight to support and encourage stakeholders to develop creative solutions where possible.
- Methods for effective engagement with community organisations and with the wider community, face to face and online.
- Strong facilitation skills.
- Experience of working in place-based settings with multiple stakeholders.
- Good writing and analytical skills, with an accessible style of communication.
- The ability to identify, gather and analyse key information and deploy it effectively.
- Experience of supporting organisational development and planning.

### **Methodology**

- Demonstrate in detail how the scope of works will be delivered, clearly broken down by project tasks.
- Set out a project timetable using the milestones provided, demonstrating in more detail how the work will be phased.

### **Price**

- Value for money.



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