



## **Building Change Trust Tender Open Government Partnership NI Civil Society Working Group: Exploratory Research**

### **1. Introduction**

The Building Change Trust was established in 2008 by the Big Lottery Fund with a National Lottery grant of £10million as an investment for community capacity building and promotion of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in Northern Ireland. The Trust supports the VCSE sector in Northern Ireland through the development, delivery of, and learning from a range of programmes including commissioned work, awards programmes and other interventions. Between now and 2018, our resources will be used to support the VCSE sector to achieve more and better collaboration, increased sustainability and to be a learning and influential sector. This work will be carried out across 6 overarching thematic areas: Collaboration, Social Finance, Social Innovation, Inspiring Impact, Leadership and Creative Space for Civic Thinking.

This tender is part of the Trust's 'Creative Space for Civic Thinking' theme, the overall aim of which is to enable the VCSE sector to better facilitate meaningful participation of citizens in decision-making processes.

Within this thematic area one key strand of work to date has been to explore the potential for the Open Government Partnership (OGP)<sup>1</sup> to be implemented in Northern Ireland. The Trust has organised a number of activities in this regard in recent months most notably a study/learning visit by NI VCSE sector representatives to the OGP Europe conference in Dublin from 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May, a seminar on the OGP in Belfast on 16<sup>th</sup> May and most recently the Trust convened the first meeting of an OGP Northern Ireland Civil Society Working Group on 12<sup>th</sup> June. One of the main outcomes of this first meeting of the working group was a commitment from the Trust to resource some exploratory work to help inform the group's actions over the coming months.

Consequently, the Trust is looking for a suitable consultant or consultants to undertake the following tasks:

- An analysis of the UK action plan to identify which commitments apply in Northern Ireland and which do not
- A mapping of other existing or planned NI Executive commitments that could fit under the open government umbrella

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<sup>1</sup> For more information see the following links: <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/>; <http://www.opengovernment.org.uk/>; <http://www.ogpireland.ie/>; (UK Action Plan) [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/255901/ogp\\_uknationalactionplan.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/255901/ogp_uknationalactionplan.pdf); (ROI Draft Action Plan) <http://per.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/Draft-OGP-National-Action-Plan-06-05-14.pdf>

- An assessment (through conversations with key political and civil service stakeholders, ombudsmen, commissioners, etc.) of the potential of an OGP campaign in Northern Ireland including but not limited to
  - what degree of openness would there be from the NI Executive?
  - what are the areas of possible cooperation between the NI Executive and VCSE organisations?
  - what are the areas where progress will be challenging?

As part of the above it would be important to identify any existing contacts/conversations between respective departments in Whitehall and Stormont, or the Northern Ireland Office around the OGP

- A (limited) survey of the VCSE sector to identify further issues for a potential OGP campaign and gauge their relative importance
- Make recommendations in relation to the strategy, focus, timing, etc. of an OGP civil society campaign in Northern Ireland.

## **2. Purpose**

The overall purpose of the exercise is:

*“To gather information from key stakeholder groups and produce analysis of the same, to inform a potential campaign and advocacy strategy to seek implementation of the Open Government Partnership in Northern Ireland”*

## **3. Methodology**

It is expected the consultant will mainly use the following techniques:

- Desk based research, using online resources
- Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders from the VCSE sector, the NI Civil Service and politicians (to be identified through consultation with working group members)
- Online survey
- Focus group discussions with VCSE representatives

## **4. Expected Outcomes**

The main outcomes of the research will be as follows:

1. A document listing each of the UK OGP commitments and identifying its status in Northern Ireland as one of the following:
  - Complete
  - Implementation ongoing
  - Implementation planned
  - Applicable in NI but implementation not planned

- Not applicable in NI
- Other (specified)

Where implementation is ongoing or planned, any available details should be provided including the government department responsible, timeframe, scope, etc.

2. A detailed list of other current or planned initiatives by the NI Executive that could be construed as fitting within the OGP's global 'grand challenges' (improving public services; increasing public integrity; more effectively managing public resources; creating safer communities; increasing corporate accountability) and/or the UK Government's five OGP themes (open data, government integrity, fiscal transparency, empowering citizens, natural resource transparency)
3. An analysis of the potential for the OGP to be implemented in Northern Ireland, highlighting some of the key areas where progress would be most likely, as well as areas where change would be highly sought after by civil society but challenging from a government perspective
4. Recommendations in relation to the strategy, focus, timing, etc. of an OGP civil society advocacy campaign in Northern Ireland

The consultant will present the analysis to the OGP NI Civil Society Working Group. The findings of the research will also be made publicly available via the Building Change Trust's website and other appropriate channels.

## 5. Timeframe

The timeframe within which all of the above work must be completed is six weeks from the date of signing of the contract.

## 6. Tender Requirements

### **Minimum Standards of Professional Ability**

#### **Individual's Experience**

Each of the nominated individuals must demonstrate by way of at least 2 examples of work completed within the last 5 years, previous relevant experience of each of the following (i.e. 6 examples in total):

- i. The structure and workings of the NI Executive, NI Civil Service and/or the NI Assembly
- ii. Advocacy and/or civic engagement work undertaken by the NI VCSE sector
- iii. Initiatives aimed at increasing transparency, accountability and participation in the practice of Government

Proposals should be no longer than 8 pages and contain the following:

**Tenderers Response 1:** Tenderers must describe how they meet each of the 3 minimum standards set out above. Failure to meet the minimum standards will result in elimination from the competition.

**Tenderers Response 2:** Tenderers must describe the methodology they will use to achieve the tasks outlined in Section 2 above.

**Tenders response 3:** The maximum budget for this assignment is £8,000 inclusive of VAT and expenses tenderers must set out a budget and week by week work plan detailing the individuals/organisations/departments (as relevant) involved and the costs to be incurred. Tenderers should price accordingly to gain a competitive advantage. Tenderers received over this amount will not be considered.

**Payment arrangements:** Payment to the successful tenderer will be made on the successful completion of key tasks, specifically 25% on the signing of a contract, 25% on the submission of the interim report by the deadline 5 September August 2014 and the balance of 50% on the submission of the final report by 19 September 2014.

#### Tender evaluation

Evaluation Criteria	Marks Available
Proposed Methodology to deliver requirements	60
Price to complete tasks	40

#### 7. Deadline and Submission Information

Proposals should be submitted both electronically to [info@buildingchangetrust.org](mailto:info@buildingchangetrust.org) and in **3 hard copies** to the below address no later than 4pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**Address: The Building Change Trust, Community House, Citylink Business Park, Albert Street, Belfast BT12 4HQ**

**Please note that The Trust is not obliged to accept the lowest or any tender.**