



**Kenneling Contract**

**SOFT MARKET TEST (PME)**

**AUGUST 2026**

## **1. Introduction**

Wyre Council is undertaking a soft market testing exercise to assess the level of interest and capacity within the local market for the provision of stray dog kennelling services. This exercise is intended to inform future procurement considerations and help the Council understand the availability of suitable providers both within Wyre and the surrounding areas.

The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to make arrangements for dealing with stray dogs and is seeking feedback from organisations that may be interested in delivering these services.

This engagement is for market research purposes only and does not constitute a formal procurement exercise, invitation to tender, or commitment by Wyre Council to proceed with any future procurement.

## **2. Scope**

It is envisaged that this soft market test will determine whether a future procurement exercise is viable to support the idea of delivering a high quality in and out-of-hours Kenneling service.

Wyre Council is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced businesses capable of providing stray dog kennelling services, including the safe collection, transport, accommodation, care, and management of stray dogs on behalf of the Council. The anticipated service requirements include:

### **Core Operational Service**

- Provision of secure, licensed kennelling facilities for stray dogs found within the Wyre borough.
- Collection and transportation of stray dogs when required.
- Appropriate welfare, feeding, exercise, veterinary care, and day-to-day management of all dogs in accordance with current animal welfare legislation and best practice.
- Maintenance of accurate records relating to dog admissions, ownership enquiries, reclaim processes, and outcomes.

### **Service Hours**

The Council's current requirement is expected to include:

- Core service provision: Monday to Sunday, 8:30am to 5:00pm.
- Out-of-hours service provision: 5:00pm to 9:00pm, including weekends and bank holidays, to respond to stray dog reports received outside normal operating hours.

Providers should indicate their ability to deliver both the core and out-of-hours elements of the service and highlight any alternative service models that may be available.

### **Geographic Coverage**

The Council is particularly interested in hearing from providers located:

- Within the Borough of Wyre; or
- Within a reasonable operating distance of approximately 30-mile radius outside the Wyre Borough, which would enable an effective and responsive service to be maintained.

## Information Requested

Interested organisations are invited to provide information on:

- Company background and relevant experience.
- Location of kennelling facilities.
- Capacity and capability to manage stray dog services.
- Availability to provide out-of-hours cover.
- Relevant licences, accreditations, and insurance arrangements.
- Indicative pricing structures or charging models.
- Any additional services or innovative approaches that could enhance service delivery.

### 3. Soft Market Test - process and next steps

The soft market test is intended to allow interested organisations with appropriate experience to outline their views and provide information with no commitment from themselves or the council. It is not part of a formal procurement process, and the council is not guaranteeing to carry out such a process.

Interested parties are requested to submit an emailed response to the following questionnaire using the following email address: [ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk) or submit a copy via the Council's e-procurement portal which is the [CHEST](#). Registration with the CHEST is recommended to ensure all information is received as this will be the system used to share answers to queries and any other general updates.

### 4. Indicative Timetable:

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2026  | Soft Market Test request published on Find Tender Service and ProContract portal                                                                                      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2026 | Deadline for queries                                                                                                                                                  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2026 | Interested parties to provide written responses to the questionnaire via the ProContract portal or <a href="mailto:ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk">ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk</a> |

**Dealing with Queries:** All queries regarding this document or requirements should be submitted via the CHEST or by email to [ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk). The council will seek to respond within 3 working days. The council will share the question and response with other interested parties via the ProContract Portal.

**Council Contact Details:** The council's main point of contact is Ben McCabe – [ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk)

## 5. Questionnaire

We have kept the questionnaire deliberately short, using it mainly as a mechanism to assess interest in further conversations around the provision of a kenneling contract. Please answer all questions as indicated.

Brochures or other general marketing information should not be attached in addition to this. If you have any queries regarding the questionnaire, please detail your enquiry using the ProContract portal or via the email address: [ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk)

The council will answer all enquiries via email. **The final deadline for queries is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026.**

**The completed questionnaire must be returned, together with supporting documents no later than 12.00 noon on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026** bearing the reference 'Kennelling Contract soft market test 'and returned via the ProContract portal or emailed to [ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk](mailto:ben.mccabe@wyre.gov.uk).

**Questionnaire:**

| Question                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Response |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Name of organisation                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |          |
| Name and position of individual completing this questionnaire                                                                                                                                                                            |          |
| Contact email                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |          |
| Contact Telephone                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |
| Briefly describe your Organisation and key achievements.                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |
| Website (if applicable)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |
| We are exploring a services contract for the provision of in and out-of-hours service for kenneling stray dogs.<br><br>Please indicate your capacity and capability to manage stray dog services, including location of your facilities? |          |
| Please indicate the length of the arrangement your organisation would be seeking to operate?                                                                                                                                             |          |
| Please provide any other information which you feel will be beneficial to the council?                                                                                                                                                   |          |