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UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

# Introduction

# A new national UK Community Renewal Fund has been set up by government to support local communities most in need, by improving skills, breaking down the barriers to employment and supporting local businesses.

# The Council has been given responsibility as a lead authority for pulling together a bid to government and we are interested in projects that build on local insight and knowledge, and project proposals that align with long-term strategic plans for local growth, target people most in need and support community renewal.

# In addition, projects should show how they complement other national and local provision. A focus for this Fund is to support innovation and new ideas in these areas, investing in pilots that draw on local insights and which will help places to prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022.

# Before starting work on a bid, please read the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus and the UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers.

# The Prospectus provides detailed information on the objectives of the Fund, the types of projects it intends to support and how it operates, including the process and selection criteria that will be used to assess bids.

# Successful UK Community Renewal Fund bids will be for 2021/22 only and activity must be revenue based and be financially and practically completed by 31st March 2022.

# Background

To help local areas prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the UK Government is providing funding in 2021/22 through the UK Community Renewal Fund. We are interested in bids that build on local insight and knowledge, and project proposals that align with long-term strategic plans for local growth, target people most in need and support community renewal. In addition, projects should show how they complement other national and local provision. A focus for this Fund is to support innovation and new ideas in these areas, investing in pilots that draw on local insights and which will help places to prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022.

Nottinghamshire County Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Nottinghamshire County Council is responsible for:

* Issuing this invitation.
* Receiving bids.
* Selecting the bids that will be sent to UK Government for consideration.
* Paying grants to successful projects and managing their performance.

The Council will work to pull together a package of projects for submission, but the Government will decide on which projects are supported. Full details of the role of lead authorities can be found in the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus.

# What type of bids are we looking for?

Projects must deliver activity that is line with the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus and align with at least one of these investment priorities:

* Investment in skills.
* Investment for local business.
* Investment in communities and place.
* Supporting people into employment.

There are no financial allocations to these priorities.

The UK Government anticipates supporting a range of projects by theme and size, but **applicants are encouraged to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects (£500,000+)** where this is possible.

As 90% of funding available through the UK Community Renewal Fund is **revenue funding and only available in 2021/22**, projects should be predominantly, or exclusively revenue based. Projects that focus predominantly on the construction or major refurbishment of buildings, the purchase of land or the purchase of large pieces of equipment will not be supported.

## **Geographic coverage**

Projects should benefit the following places identified by the UK Government as ‘Priority 1’ areas:

* Bassetlaw.
* Mansfield.
* Newark and Sherwood

Organisations in other areas of the county can still apply if projects match the grant criteria

Bids may cover a single area, or a combination

## **Local priorities**

## In selecting the bids that will be forwarded to the UK Government for consideration the Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities in the required timescales. The priorities are:

* **Employment and skills** – Enabling people in targeted age groups, who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, to be supported back into work.
* **Enterprise** – Supporting small businesses and encouraging new businesses.
* **Market towns** – Supporting local market towns to improve footfall and increase businesses and residents’ satisfaction.
* **Visitor economy** – Encouraging visitors in order to support local tourism and hospitality businesses and propoting culture led regeneration and community development.
* **Low carbon ­**– Support for businesses to improve their ‘green’ credentials.
* **Digital enablement** – Support for manufacturers to upskill the workforce to meet the increasing challenges of advanced technology and automation.

Some example projects and potential outputs are included in **Appendix A**.

Because of the limited timescale for projects to be delivered i.e., by 31st March 2022, bids are particularly encouraged from organisations with existing projects and programmes which meet the government’s investment priorities and which could offer clear additional value and deliver additional outputs.

# How bids will be assessed

As the lead authority Nottinghamshire County Council will assess all bids submitted against the following:

* The gateway criteria set out in the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus – bids that fail to meet these criteria are ineligible support and will be rejected (The Gateway Criteria are set out in **Appendix B**).
* Where organisations are not public sector organisations, they must have sufficient financial standing to manage the level of funding requested and that there are no delivery issues that would prevent early and full delivery.
* The extent to which they meet the objectives of UK Community Renewal Fund.
* The extent to which bids would support the delivery of local growth and employment and its’ priorities.

In particular, bidders should note the following when deciding whether to bid:

* In line with government requirements priority will be given to larger projects of £500,000 and above.
* All organisations should be able to demonstrate sufficient financial standing, experience and capabilities to manage and deliver such projects.
* All projects must be completed, and funds spent by 31 March 2022, noting that this is predominantly revenue-based funding

and project start dates will not be known until the proposals are agreed with the government, after late July 2021  
Following assessment, Nottinghamshire County Council will submit those eligible bids which most strongly meet the UK Community Renewal Fund and its local priorities to the UK Government for consideration, up to a maximum of £3m per geographic area.

The UK Government will assess all bids submitted by lead authorities against the criteria set out in the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus.

The UK Government will announce the outcome of the assessment process from late July 2021 onwards.

Nottinghamshire County Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders.

# Timeline for the bidding process

The timeline for the bidding process is shown below.



# Submitting a bid

Organisations proposing to bid should notify the Council of their intention to bid as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 16th April 2021**, confirming:

* The name of the organisation (or lead organisation if working with others) proposing to submit the bid.
* A contact person for the bid.
* A brief summary (a maximum of 200 words) confirming the nature and focus of the bid, its proposed impact and outputs.

The notification should be sent to [CRFNottinghamshire@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:CRFNottinghamshire@nottscc.gov.uk).

Final bids must be submitted by noon **7th May 2021** using the UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form, which is available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus). Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

Bids must be submitted to Nottinghamshire County Council using the following email address: [CRFNottinghamshire@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:CRFNottinghamshire@nottscc.gov.uk).

**Appendix A – Example projects based on local priorities**

Here are some examples of the type of projects that would be consistent with local priorities. Please note, these are indicative and provided to assist applicants in developing their own projects. Applicants should cross-reference the following with the Government’s published guidance on expected outcomes.

| **Priority themes** | **Example projects** | **Example outputs** |
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| **Employment/skills** | Programmes to support under 25s who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic to be helped back into work. | * Increased employment and training for young people under 25. |
| Programmes to support those aged 50+ who tend to get overlooked by dedicated programmes) to address barriers to entering the labour market. Enhance existing programmes and include a ’place’ based focus to provide greater coordination, uptake and progression. | * Increased employment for people aged 50+. |
| Programmes to support targeted individuals to meet employment requirements. e.g. all three districts have a number of large employers that operate 24/7 facilities where individuals with a health condition struggle to meet employment requirements. Work with employers to promote/pilot alternative approaches for those with health conditions, women returners and those with carer responsibilities to enter the workforce. Supporting activity enabling all to practically access work with travel support | * Reduced barriers to labour market for targeted groups. * Increased employment. * Enabling greater access to employment opportunities through enhanced travel options |
| Programmes to support upskilling of the workforce to deliver ‘in business’ training bespoke to particular industries with a focus on growth sectors identified in local economic development strategies. | * Improved business performance in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. * Additional qualifications for workforce. |
| Youth Hub activity in each district providing wrap around support delivering a focused point in each town for support from DWP/FE/Enterprise Agency/Local Authorities etc. (To the extent that this relates to revenue and not capital). | Young people supported through:   * Additional qualifications. * Increased employment. |
| **Enterprise** | A young enterprise programme aimed at people under 25 who wish to start up a business. | * New business start-ups. * Increased employment. |
| A programme of support and finance aimed at driving new start-ups and re-start-ups in all 3 districts | * New business start-ups. * Increased employment. |
| A retail and key services (including community run pubs, shops for example) support programme,offering support to develop e-commerce and a digital marketplace for retailers to adapt and re-grow. | * Improved retail business performance in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. * Increased employment. |
| Enhancing existing programmes of sector support, providing growth sectors within the area with specialist support, mentoring and finance. | * Improved retail business performance in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. * Increased employment. |
| Skills Survey to inform future skills commissioning/business support programmes.  Understanding what businesses are operating in growth sectors currently (e.g. digital, low carbon, modern methods of construction) and their current and future skills needs. In order to be in a position to influence skills commissioning and understand demand.  Understand how the automation agenda can be approached in manufacturing settings and the impact/opportunities of this across the districts. | * Move away from low skills/low pay roles. * More diverse mix of employment opportunities. * Increased employment. * Improved business performance in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. |
|  | Programme activity supporting young people’s entry into business and enterprise, including the teenage markets providing finance (seed corn funding) and specialist support to create new markets led by people under the age of 24. | * New business start-ups/market stalls. * Increased employment. * Improved vibrancy of towns. |
| **Market towns** | Market Towns Greening Programme to provide improved public realm to the extent that this relates to revenue funding and not capital. | At least 6 market towns supported with improved public realm works leading to:   * Increased footfall. * Increased business satisfaction. * Increased resident satisfaction. |
| Market Towns Arts & Cultural Programme to create a new ‘Unique Selling Point’ art or cultural work with local partners. | At least 6 market towns supported with a new Art or Cultural Project that:   * Drives inclusion. * Increases footfall. * Increases dwell time in the town. |
|  | To develop a strong private sector led business club for Worksop, focussed on the retailers, market traders, and businesses from the wider town centre to provide ongoing meaningful engagement with the local authority, other stakeholders and interested parties to deliver the vision and strategic priorities contained within the Worksop Masterplan. | * Stimulate development of the Worksop Innovation District. * Stimulate retail activity and business growth. * Stimulate community development. * Increase employment. |
| **Visitor economy** | Development of a coordinated approach to market visitor economy/tourism assets to encourage repeat visits/ longer overnight stays by developing itineraries to showcase attractions/places to stay/eat. Consider dedicated business support (Covid-19 recovery focus) and sector specific research (e.g. focus on clean growth and green tourism) to provide insight for businesses to develop their growth plans. | * Boost to tourism and hospitality sector businesses. * Increased employment. |
| **Low carbon** | Programmes of support to businesses wishing to improve their green credentials i.e. use of green technologies, solar panels, improved infrastructure to properties etc, including education/training on benefits of adopting low carbon technologies/business process re-engineering techniques to improve efficiencies, productivity and bottom-line. | * Reduced carbon footprint. * Improved business performance in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. * Increased employment. |
| **Digital enablement** | Increased digital offer to individuals and/or businesses to support advanced technology and automation. | * More digitally enabled workforce. * Improved business performance in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. * Increased employment. |

**Appendix B – Gateway Criteria for CRF bids**

All bids must satisfy the following criteria. Any bid which fails to satisfy all these criteria will be rejected and will not be assessed further.

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| **Gateway criteria for CRF bids** |
| 1. Is the application from an organisation eligible to receive UK Community Renewal Fund support? |
| 1. Will the project be complete by 31st March 2022? |
| 1. Does the project address a need identified in the Prospectus? |
| 1. Does the project address a need identified in the local Invitation to Submit Bids? |
| 1. Is the proposed activity permissible within subsidy rules or State Aid where relevant? |
| 1. Would the project duplicate other national or local provision? |
| 1. Would the project conflict with national policy? |
| 1. Will the project be delivered in accordance with branding requirements? |
| 1. Where a bidding organisation is not a public sector entity, can the organisation demonstrate sufficient financial standing to manage and deliver a project of the size envisaged. |