

The UK Community Renewal Fund Information Webinar

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**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Background

- £220 million additional funding 2021-2022
 - preparation for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
 - 1 year only
- Supports communities to pilot programmes and new approaches
- Within a national framework, responsive to local challenges / local need
- Test integration of types of interventions and greater flexibility between investment themes
- Four national investment priorities:
 - Investment in skills
 - Investment for local business
 - Investment in communities and place
 - Supporting people into employment

In Nottinghamshire



HM Government

- UKCRF - <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/community-and-voluntary-sector/uk-community-renewal-fund>
- 3 areas defined as “Top Priority”
 - Bassetlaw
 - Mansfield
 - Newark and Sherwood
- Projects can benefit one, all or a combination of areas but...
- ...an open call is required



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Local Priorities



HM Government

- Helping those disproportionately affected by the pandemic to be supported **back into work**
- Supporting **existing** small businesses and encouraging **new** businesses
- Supporting **market towns** by improving footfall
- Encouraging more visitors to Nottinghamshire to help support the **local tourism and hospitality** trade
- Helping businesses improve their **low carbon** credentials
- Supporting the **digital upskilling** of the workforce to meet the increasing challenges of advances in technology



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Overall Process



HM Government

- Process
 - Gateway (pass or fail) and if passed progress to
 - Two-stage and scored Assessment:
 - Strategic Fit
 - Deliverability, Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Both equally weighted but note that projects that do **not** predominantly focus on priority areas must score a minimum of 80% to be shortlisted
- “Appointable projects” grouped into 3 bands
- Final submission based on ranking and financial ceiling

NCC Responsibilities

- Act as “Lead Authority”
- Manage the open call for projects
- Assess the submitted projects
- Develop a coherent set of projects for submission to government with member engagement
- Make a formal submission
- If successful and if projects selected, manage the grant process and returns to government
- Evaluate the programme

Intentions to Bid

Key Messages

- Bids **cannot** be submitted for projects that benefit a single entity, for example a single business. There must be evidence of wider impact for multiple individuals, businesses or other organisations and communities
- A number of organisations indicated possible bids for capital. The UK CRF is predominantly revenue **and** for projects and programmes that address a theme or multiple themes and may therefore not be eligible or score well from the Intentions to Bid received
- We would urge potential applicants to use this time before submission to explore **clear and credible collaboration** with partners and fellow delivery organisations
- Looking for clear ability to deliver **quickly and well** with **minimal risk** over a **short timetable**

Intentions to Bid

Key Messages (2)

- Full applications must demonstrate how they will impact on the **themes** and the local geographies, focusing especially on the **3 priority areas**. The assessment process is geared towards the top priority areas
- The **deadline** for the submission of final applications is **absolute and final**
- Applicants **must** use the government's published application form:
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/969976/UKCRF_Application_Form_Word_.docx
- No other form of submission will be accepted
- A range of projects may be submitted but applicants are encouraged to maximise impact & deliverability through larger projects (£500k+)

Intentions to Bid

Key Messages (3)

- The guidance is here:
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/970057/UKCRF Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/970057/UKCRF_Technical_Note_for_Project_Applicants_and_Deliverers.pdf) which should be read in tandem with the wider Prospectus
- Applicants should also note the Gateway Criteria and that this is **pass or fail**
- Reviewing the two-stage assessment process will help guide applicants as to how the scoring will be progressed
- Successful applicants will need to develop an evaluation plan with between 1-2% of their award to be dedicated to that evaluation with a minimum threshold of £10,000

Tips

- Read **all** the Guidance – incl that offered to NCC as Lead Authority
- Reflect carefully on the geographical **and** thematic impacts
- Use the government-referenced impact / outcome indicators
- Use the application form – note annex requirements
- Do **not** attach any additional info / weblinks
- **Note** any word counts
- Note the eligible / ineligible costs and the NCC management fee between 2-3%

Local / National Timelines



HM Government

Milestone	Date
CRF Launch	8 th April
[Intention to Bid Deadline]	16 th April
Changed closing Date for Applications Email to: CRFNottinghamshire@nottsc.gov.uk	12 noon 14th May
Assessment and Review	May
Facilitation of Bid to government	June
Deadline for Lead Authority submission	18 th June
Government confirms projects to be supported and level of grant	End July
Delivery	August onwards
Completion of delivery and funding	31 st March 2022

FAQs

National: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-frequently-asked-questions>

Local: See drop-down at:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/community-and-voluntary-sector/uk-community-renewal-fund>

Email for questions: NottsCRFQueries@nottscc.gov.uk

The local FAQs will be refreshed over the next week or so up until the ***NEW*** deadline of **14th May 2021**