
Overview of the UK Community Renewal Fund

Information for Potential Applicants to Leicester City Council



UK Government



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Aim and Objectives

Overarching aim

The UK Community Renewal Fund is a UK Government programme for 2021/22. This aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches to prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It invests in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment.

Objectives

- Supporting a smooth transition
- Enabling innovation through pilots
- A new way of working between UK Government and places
- Levelling up and creating opportunity
- Building capacity



What is the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF)

- **£220 million additional funding 2021-2022** - move away from ESIF and prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - **Funds are distinct** in regard to design, eligibility and duration.
- **Supports communities to pilot programmes and new approaches** ahead of UKSPF, to better support people and communities in need across the UK.
- **Supports innovative responses to local challenges, local need** - urban, rural, coastal areas.
- **Offers an opportunity to establish a new way of working between UK Government and places.**
- **Test greater integration of types of interventions and greater flexibility between investment themes** than places could have under EU funding arrangements.
- Innovative thinking, flexibility, across investment priorities:
 - **Investment in skills**
 - **Investment for local business**
 - **Investment in communities and place**
 - **Supporting people into employment**



What is the UKCRF – contd.

- **No ringfences** applied across these themes.
- 90% of funding available is **revenue funding**, 10% capital.
- **2021/22 only** - financially completed (i.e. all delivery activity concluded) by **31 March 2022.**
- **Prioritises applications** that target priority places - good contribution to strategic fit and delivery/effectiveness.
- Note: Leicester is a priority place but being a priority place does not guarantee funding.

Lead Authority Role

Leicester City Council is the Lead Authority for applications for Leicester.

- Responsible for:
- issuing this invitation to bid
- receiving bids
- appraising and prioritising a shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3m per place
- submitting a shortlist to UK Government to assess the proposals and select projects based on the criteria set out in the UKCRF Prospectus - **by 18th June 2021**.
- entering into a funding agreement with UK Government to deliver successful bids.
- entering into a funding agreement with the successful bidders once funding has been agreed by the UK Government.
- undertaking monitoring and assurance activity.
- paying grants to successful projects and managing their performance.

Government Examples (within prospectus)

Investment In Skills

- **Work-Based training** – for example addressing specific local need from local employers for on-the-job training to support local growth, such as taking on trainee builders for new infrastructure project

Investment for Local Businesses

- * **Support decarbonisation measures** – for example encouraging local businesses and organisations to reduce greenhouse gases through investment in new technology or energy efficiency measure that can have bottom line benefits and improve business productivity



Examples continued

Investment in Communities and Place

* **Exploring green spaces and important local assets** – for example enhancing natural assets, including green spaces in neighbourhoods and housing estates, to enhance quality of life to attract and retain talent and attract tourism

Supporting people into Employment

- **Identifying and address any potential barriers these individuals may face in gaining employment or moving closer to the labour market** – such as the use of key-worker support to work with beneficiaries to identify barriers to employment; working with and connecting individuals to the most appropriate services throughout the employment journey.



A Plan for Jobs

Where possible, projects should align with the following key priorities of the government such as [A Plan for Jobs](#) strategy

- Encouraging firms to keep on furloughed workers.
- Supporting jobs with direct help to find work and to gain the skills people need to get a job.
- Protecting jobs in the hard-hit hospitality and accommodation sectors and at attractions by supporting demand for these businesses, giving them confidence to reopen.
- Creating jobs with action to get the property market moving, to increase and bring forward infrastructure investment, and to make homes greener, warmer and cheaper to heat.
- Delivering a green recovery with the overarching aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



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Local Investment Priorities

The City Mayor [vision for the city](#) which covers the following pledges:

- A fair city
- Homes for all
- Connecting Leicester
- Sustainable Leicester
- Health and Care
- Lifelong Learning
- A city to enjoy
- A safe and inclusive city



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Economic Recovery Plan

- Support businesses to re-open safely and people to move safely
- Develop a programme to strengthen performance and image of textile sector
- Working with partners, design effective business support for sectors in greatest need
- Explore supply chain opportunities that can grow businesses and promote local buying and procurement
- Deliver investment that improves the visitor economy offer and promotes the city
- Co-ordinate support for young people and support work coaches in neighbourhood settings
- Develop and extend the services of the Employment Hub
- Support Digital Skills
- Use the Framework for inclusive growth to inform and report on our plan
- Work with the voluntary and community sector to assist vulnerable communities during recovery, including support for the role of volunteering in the development of new skills.
- Support green jobs, tackle the climate emergency and make more environmental data available on the city's open data platform.



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A two-stage competitive process

Stage 1 – Local

Registration of Interest by: 30th April 2021

LCC application window opens for applications –16th April –21st May

LCC to appraise and prioritise projects –22nd May –18th June

LCC to submit shortlist of projects to MHCLG up to £3m

Stage 2 - National

UK Government assesses bids -18th June to end July

UK Government announces successful projects for the UK Community Renewal Fund (late July)

How will you be informed of the outcome?

local shortlisting process

- LCC will inform applicants if their bid has been shortlisted by the 18th of June
- Decisions will be in the public domain after 18th June

Of the national process

- The UK Government will announce the outcome of the process from late July onwards

How will successful projects be managed?

Contracts

- LCC will establish a funding agreement with each local project deliverer
- More detail to follow when Government shares its template

Payments and Monitoring

- Payments are likely to be in arrears following submission of a claim form. Likely to be some flexibility, but exact process subject to confirmation
- Project costs must be based on actual expenditure incurred and evidenced through invoices or other transactions



Who can apply and benefit?

Who can apply?

- Any legally constituted organisation (this may include Local Authorities, Public Sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies and registered charities)
- Private sector organisations and registered charities can be project deliverers where they are providing a service to benefit other organisations or individuals
- BUT They cannot receive support if the intention of the project is to further their own business/organisation e.g. through the purchase of equipment or offsetting additional staffing or other costs’.
- Individuals cannot apply

Who can benefit?

The fund is aiming to support

| Main Indicator | Sub Set Indicator |
|----------------|---|
| People | Economically Inactive Unemployed Employed |
| Businesses | Small Medium Large |
| Organisations | Public Private Voluntary Sector |

Application Process and Gateway

All bids should be made on the **UKCRF Application Form** which can be found [here](#).

A **Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers covering eligible activity** is available [here](#).

Gateway - Pass/Fail – must pass all gateway to be considered. Projects will:

1. be delivered (including all expenditure incurred) by **31 March 2022**
2. respond to a need identified in the Prospectus/Invitation to Bid
3. not duplicate other national or local provision
4. not conflict with national policy
5. be delivered by a legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds
6. be delivered in line with subsidy control/State Aid requirements
7. be delivered in accordance with branding requirements.
8. *Projects have to be submitted by the lead authority. Bids submitted independently will not be accepted.*
9. *Lead Authority must show led an open process by which organisations are invited to submit bids.*

Application Form

- **9 Parts to the Form**
- **3 Annexes to complete**
 - A – Project Impact Indicators
 - B – Funding Package and Profile
 - C – Project Risks
- **Part 1 – Project Summary** : describe the project , activities to take place, who will deliver the project, how delivered, beneficiates of the project, where it will take place, when and key milestones.
- **Part 2 – Project Impact:** explain the projects proposed short and long term impacts, how aligns to local need, support to Govts Net Zero ambition, innovation, groups to target incl. equality impacts, outcomes. **(Annex A)**
- All bidders should consider the indicators set out in the Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers online. Successful projects will need to submit evidence to us as the Lead Authority demonstrating progress towards achievement of project targets and investment profiles at regular intervals – *to be determined*.
- **Part 3 – Funding Package:** how much UKCRF requested, any match, breakdown and basis of budget. *(Match Funding is encouraged but not mandatory)*. **(Annex B)**



Application Form Cont..d

- **Part 4 – Applicant Experience and Capacity:** experience and resources of your organisation relevant to the project, if need to recruit staff/contractors, how manage any delays, systems and process to manage the funding.
- **Part 5 - Project Risk Management:** summarise key risks and process to monitor. **(Annex C)**
- **Part 6 – Evaluation:** how it will be evaluated and impact on clients, how findings are disseminated. *(1-2% of CRF requested – min £10K)*
- **Part 7 – Subsidy Control:** If CRF is used to provide a subsidy outline how managed and compliant with the UK's obligations on subsidy control.
- **Part 8 – Branding and Publicity:** confirm read and will comply.
- **Part 9 – Project Applicant Statement:** Bidders must agree to the declaration, T & Cs and sign the application

Eligible costs

Revenue costs include: (UKCRF is 90% Revenue)

- staff costs - salaries and contractual benefits, National Insurance and superannuation contributions – p/t % of time,
- overhead 15% of staff costs.
- costs of business travel, subsistence and accommodation.
- contractors and consultants procured to - deliver project activity, undertake evaluation work, undertake audit work if requested by the Secretary of State, undertake feasibility studies and/or market research to inform potential future projects
- costs of materials or venue hire
- marketing and publicity costs
- grants provided to end beneficiaries
- training participant costs e.g. allowances, travel expenses
- dependant care costs of training participants
- small items of equipment
- **evaluation – 1-2% of the award min £10K**



Eligible costs

Capital costs include: (UKCRF is 10% Capital)

- acquisition of land and or buildings
- building and construction
- professional fees associated with building and construction
- plant and machinery
- any larger value item of equipment, assessed in accordance with the project deliverer's capitalisation policy.

Applicants are asked to note, that in line with the Government guidance, applicants will be charged a 2-3% management fee to support the Combined Authority to carry out its role. This will be taken off the final grant awarded to any successful bid. **This should be taken into account when calculating the resources needed to run the project.**

- UKCRF cannot be used to establish loan or investment funds
- Income – allowable but offset against grant.



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Excluded costs and activities

- using grant funds to fund lobbying
- using grant funding to petition for additional funding
- expenses such as for entertaining, specifically aimed at exerting undue influence to change government policy
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC; VAT that cannot be recovered from HMRC is eligible
- payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature
- interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases
- gifts, or payments for gifts or donations
- statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
- payments for works or activities which the Lead Authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- bad debts to related parties
- payments for unfair dismissal or other compensation
- depreciation or amortisation costs
- contingencies and contingent liabilities
- Dividends
- costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors
- costs involved in winding up a company
- legal expenses in respect of litigation
- costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes
- payments that breach or are contrary to the funding agreement or UK legislation

Outputs and Outcomes (Annex A)

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| People in education/training following support | People gaining a qualification following support | People engaged in job searching following support | People engaged in life skills support following interventions | Economically inactive individuals engaging with benefits system following support. |
| Businesses introducing new products to the market as a result of support | Businesses introducing new products to the firm as a result of support | Employment increase in supported businesses as a result of support | Jobs safeguarded as a result of support | Number of new businesses created as a result of support |
| Premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support | Organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support | Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support | Investment attracted as a result of support | Innovation plans developed as a result of support |
| Decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support | Total surface area of green/ blue infrastructure added or improved as a result of support | Increase in footfall as a result of support | Increase in visitor numbers as a result of support | Buildings built or renovated as a result of support |

Community Renewal Fund (CRF): Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

What we know...

- Detailed guidance will be provided on CRF monitoring and evaluation requirements later in the Spring 2021.
- A key objective of CRF is to try new ways of delivering activity to businesses and people and evaluating impact will determine what works.
- All bidders must set out the intended impacts of the project, using output and outcome indicators listed in the technical note for applicants and deliverers (Section 10). Bids will be assessed on the credibility of their M&E plans.
- If successful they must submit evidence to the Lead Authority demonstrating progress towards achievement of project targets, and also develop an evaluation plan, using 1-2% of their award and a minimum threshold of £10,000.
- Lead Authorities must ensure that all project deliverers undertake the evaluations as set out in their application, in a timely manner and collaborate with UKG in respect of the national evaluation.
UK Community Renewal Fund:
 - Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers
 - UK Community Renewal Fund: Technical Note for Lead Authorities
 - UK Community Renewal Fund: assessment process (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Good Practice & Principles for M&E

- Start Early
- Attributing Causality
- Proportionality
- Collecting Data
- When to Evaluate

[How To Evaluate | What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth \(whatworksgrowth.org\)](https://www.whatworksgrowth.org/)

* Use of a Logic Model



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Resources

- <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/my-vision/>
- <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/key-strategy-documents/>
- <https://www.lsr-online.org/>
- [Document Library | LLEP](#)



Any Questions?

www.leicester.gov.uk/commuunityrenewalfund

Enquires: CRFund@leicester.gov.uk



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Next Steps

- **Future Workshops planned for planned**

- **Completion of registration of interest form:**

[www.leicester.gov.uk/communityrenew](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund)

[alfund](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund) look under How to Apply?



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