

Bidding Document



UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

Introduction

Worcestershire County Council is seeking bids from organisations wishing to deliver activity as part of the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Please read the [UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus](#) and the UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers before starting work on a bid.

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 end in 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.

Worcestershire County Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Worcestershire 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

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 in line with the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus. We have outlined below examples of projects that can operate under each priority but please note that this list is not exhaustive.

To nurture innovative thinking and offer flexibility, projects may align with one, or deliver across several, of the following investment priorities.

1. Investment in skills.

- Work-based training,
- Retraining, upskilling or reskilling members of the workforce
- Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion

2. Investment for local business.

- Supporting entrepreneurs and helping businesses with potential to create more job opportunities for current employees or take on new employees,
- Encouraging businesses to develop their innovation potential
- Supporting decarbonisation measures

3. Investment in communities and place:

- Feasibility studies for delivering net-zero and local energy projects,
- Exploring opportunity for promoting culture-led regeneration and community development,
- Improving green spaces and preserving important local assets
- Promoting rural connectivity

4. Supporting people into employment:

- Supporting people to engage with local services which support them on their journey towards employment.
- Identifying and addressing any potential barriers these individuals may face in gaining employment or moving closer to the labour market –
- Raising aspirations, supporting individuals to access Plan for Jobs employment support, jobs and find sustainable employment
- Supporting people to gain the basic skills they need to develop their potential for sustainable work.
- Testing what works in helping people move towards work

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. Worcestershire County Council recognises that this may be challenging for some, the Council would therefore like to encourage bids for a **minimum of £250,000**.

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.

Local Priorities

In selecting the bids that will be forwarded to the UK Government for consideration Worcestershire County Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities and assist the recovery of the Worcestershire recovery following the impact of COVID 19.

CCRF Programme Priorities	Local Priorities	Local Strategies / Information Sources
Investment in Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising the severe impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the economy with impacts likely to continue over the coming year, including the potential need for reskilling to support people to access alternative employment. • The number of adults with basic skills (literacy, numeracy, digital) • Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion – for example supporting the development of digital skills for digitally excluded individuals, especially where digital exclusion presents a barrier to employment, building confidence in application of basic and advanced digital skills and promoting safety and awareness online 	<p>Information on the Worcestershire Economy Information on the Worcestershire Economy Worcestershire County Council</p> <p>Cab 20190926 Educ-Skills Strat-app1.pdf (moderngov.co.uk)</p> <p>Worcestershire-LEP-Local-Industrial-2040-Final.pdf (wlep.co.uk)</p> <p>Worcestershire's Strategy for Restart and Recovery (wlep.co.uk)</p> <p>Worcestershire Local Skills Report - Worcestershire LEP (wlep.co.uk)</p>

Investment in Local Business	Improving productivity levels in the local economy	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Innovation and scale-up; encouraging the creation of a higher wage economy. • Encourage higher levels of Entrepreneurship and business start-up • Supporting Worcestershire to meet its objective to be net zero carbon by 2050 • Supporting businesses to undertake workforce planning 	<p>Information on the Worcestershire Economy Information on the Worcestershire Economy Worcestershire County Council</p> <p>Worcestershire-LEP-Local-Industrial-2040-Final.pdf (wlep.co.uk)</p> <p>Worcestershire’s Strategy for Restart and Recovery (wlep.co.uk)</p>
Investment in communities and place		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Worcestershire to meet its objective to halve carbon emissions by 2030. • Levelling up areas of deprivation in Worcestershire through community regeneration and development of green spaces. 	<p>Worcestershire Energy Strategy 2019 – 2030 County Strategies Worcestershire County Council</p> <p>Environmental Policy Worcestershire County Council</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting the programmes for the regeneration of high streets and town centres	<p>Worcester Towns Fund Board - Worcester City Council</p> <p>£17.9m boost to regenerate Worcester's city centre - Worcester City Council - Worcester City Council</p> <p>City Centre Masterplan - Worcester City Council</p> <p>https://www.nwedr.org.uk/invest/major-projects/wyre-forest/</p> <p>https://www.redditchtowndeal.co.uk/</p>
--	---	---

Supporting people into employment		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing benefit dependency and deprivation within the population, including long-term unemployment affecting some groups. • High proportions of households falling within low-income socio-demographic groups. • Reducing levels of 16-24 year olds who are NEET or as risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) 	Information on the Worcestershire Economy Information on the Worcestershire Economy Worcestershire County Council Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)

Geographic Coverage

Projects should benefit the following places:

- Government have identified Wyre Forest as a priority area.
- Bids can cover all places (districts) across Worcestershire; bids will be prioritised based on the criteria set out by Government.

For the purposes of the UK Community Renewal Fund, place is defined at the lower tier, borough and unitary geography as set out in the glossary of terms.

The government have stated that bids will be assessed based on the amount of spend in each place set out by Project Applicants on the application form. Projects with the majority of spend in priority places (51% or over) will be considered to be a priority project.

How Bids Will be Assessed

As the lead authority Worcestershire County Council will assess all bids submitted. Bids will be assessed against:

- 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 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 support priorities

Following assessment Worcestershire County Council will submit those eligible bids which most strongly meet the UK Community Renewal Fund and local priorities to the UK Government for consideration, up to a maximum of £3m per place.

The Final decision will be based on the criteria set out by government which states that:

Band A: Projects that have scored 80% or above on both 'strategic fit' and 'deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency' and predominantly focus on priority places.

Band B: Projects that have scored 80% or above on both 'strategic fit' and 'deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency' and do not predominantly focus on priority places

Band C: Projects that have scored 50% or above on both 'strategic fit' and 'deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency'

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.

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

Submitting a Bid

Bids must be submitted using the UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form, which is available at the [UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus](#). Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

Bids must be submitted to Worcestershire County Council using this email address: CRFapplications@worcestershire.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by 5pm on 10th May 2021

The UK Community Renewal Fund is a competitive process and Worcestershire County Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders.