



UK Government

Worcestershire Community Renewal Fund Event

23rd April 2021

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, the UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers and the Worcestershire Invitation to Bid before starting work on a bid. These are available on the County Council Community Renewal Fund Page.

The Government Community Renewal Fund 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 and all funding claimed by 31 March 2022.

Background



Government 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, investing in pilots that draw on local insights. The Community Renewal Fund 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 the County Council is responsible for:

- issuing this invitation
- receiving bids
- selecting the bids that will be sent to UK Government for consideration
- contracting with successful projects and managing their performance

What type of bids are we looking for?



Projects must deliver activity that is in 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.

Bids can cover more than one priority

What funding is on offer?



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The total value of the programme is £220million.

Government have identified 100 named priority places which will be weighted higher in bid assessment. Wyre Forest has been identified as a priority place.

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).

Geographical Coverage



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.

For Worcestershire place = district council area

The bid may cover a single local authority area, or a number of local authority areas. Projects may be limited to priority places or operate across priority and non-priority places.

The Government have identified Wyre Forest as a priority place

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.

Local priorities



In selecting the bids that will be forwarded to the UK Government for consideration the County Council as lead authority will prioritise:

- The bids that meet the priorities of the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus
- Align with local priorities as set out in the invitation to bid.
- Assist the recovery of the Worcestershire economy following the impact of COVID 19.

Where organisations may struggle to meet the minimum threshold we would encourage organisations to work together

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 for 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

Based on the criteria set out by government appointable projects will be grouped into 3 bands and selected in sequence:

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’ and predominantly focus on priority places.



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How bids will be assessed

Following assessment, the 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.

Shortlisted bids will be submitted to the UK Government by noon on 18 June 2021.

The UK Government will assess all bids submitted by lead authorities against the criteria set out in the Prospectus. The UK Government will announce the outcome of the assessment process from late July 2021 onwards.

Application process



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Before submitting an application please make sure you read all the guidance at:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund>

All bidders are required to complete the national application form. Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

Bids must be submitted to the County Council via email

CRFapplications@Worcestershire.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by **5pm on Monday 10th May**

Questions can be asked via email CRFquestions@worcestershire.gov.uk – answers to all questions will be made available on the Worcestershire County Council Community Renewal Fund web page



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Questions