

UK Community Renewal Fund: Q&A Session for Applicants

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Purpose of today's session

1. Purpose of the session
2. Review the guidance, application form and key questions
3. UKCRF assessment criteria
4. Opportunity to ask questions
5. Identify potential collaboration opportunities

UKCRF Investment Priorities

- Projects may align with one, or deliver across several, of the following investment priorities.

Investment Priority	Project examples from UKCRF Prospectus
Investment in skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples might include work-based training, retraining, upskilling, reskilling the existing workforce, promoting digital skills development and inclusion.
Investment for local business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Investment in communities and place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Supporting people into employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 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.

UKCRF Guidance documents

- Key guidance documents are available through the Sunderland 'Invitation to Submit Project Bids' document available here: [UK Community Renewal Fund - Sunderland - Sunderland City Council](#).
- The Government has also published the prospectus, technical notes, assessment criteria, FAQs and the application form which can be found via the link in the Sunderland bid document or here: [UK Community Renewal Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

UKCRF Guidance documents

Document	Description
Sunderland – Invitation to Submit Project Bids	This sets out the local process and timetable for Sunderland-based projects that want to apply for UKCRF support.
Privacy Notice	This notice explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018.
Prospectus	Provides an overview of the fund, its investment priorities and delivery arrangements.
Application Form	A standard form to be used by all applicants to the fund, across the UK. Includes guidance to bidders on answering the questions.
Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers	Provides information on who can apply, what the fund can support, excluded activities, branding, monitoring and fund indicators.
Assessment Criteria	Describes the assessment process that will be used by UK Government to assess shortlisted applications put forward by lead authorities in Great Britain, and all project applications in Northern Ireland.
Places and Lead Authorities List (Great Britain)	Lists each place (district or unitary council area) in Great Britain and the relevant Lead Authority. Identifies 100 priority places
Methodology Note	Sets out the methodology used to develop an index of priority places for the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Assessment Criteria

- All projects to be assessed in line with Government's UK CRF assessment criteria
- Familiarise yourself with the assessment criteria and ask someone to review the document against the criteria
- 2 core criteria: 1) Strategic Fit and 2) Deliverability, Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Projects will be grouped into Bands and selection will be in order of Bands
- For projects in Sunderland (as a non-priority 100 place) projects must score a minimum 80% against the 2 core criteria to be placed in Band B (Band A = priority areas 80% score, Band C = priority areas 50% score)

Application to Assessment

Application Form / Assessment Template / Assessment Criteria

- All applicants have to complete a standardised application form issued by Government
- Lead Authorities must appraise all applications received and select for inclusion in Sunderland bid based on Gateway criteria, Extent to meeting CRF objectives and Extent of support towards local growth and employment support priorities
- Suggested assessment template provided by Government for use by Lead Authorities
- All applications included in Sunderland bid to be assessed by Government in line with publicised assessment criteria
- A Sunderland project must score a minimum of 80%

Initial Gateway

Pass/Fail/Partial - need to pass to proceed to main selection criteria assessment

- Delivery, incl. all expenditure by 31 March 2022
- Responds to needs identified in prospectus
- Does not duplicate other national/local provision
- Does not conflict with national policy
- Legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds
- Meets subsidy control requirements
- Meets branding requirements
- Has been submitted via Lead Authority via open process

Initial Gateway

Application Form	Assessment Template	Assessment Criteria
9. Project Applicant Statement - "the project applicant has the legal authority to carry out the project"	1. Is the application from an organisation eligible to receive UK Community Renewal Fund support?	5. Project proposal will be delivered by a legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds.
1g. When will the project activity end? 1i. What are the key milestones for the development and implementation of the project?	2. Will the project be complete by 31 st March 2022?	1. Project proposal will be delivered (including all expenditure incurred) by 31 March 2022.
1b. What activities will take place 1e. Who will be the beneficiaries of the project 2a. What will be long and short term benefits 2e. Which groups will your project target 2g. What CRF outcomes will the project deliver?	3. Does the project address a need identified in the Prospectus?	2. Project proposal responds to a need identified in the prospectus.*
2b. How does the proposal align with local needs and long-term strategic plans for local growth	4. Does the project address a need identified in the local invite to submit bids?	N/A
7. Subsidy control	5. Is the proposed activity permissible within subsidy rules or State Aid where relevant?	6. Project proposal will be delivered in line with subsidy control/State Aid requirements.*
Links to 1b, 1e, 2e, 2g plus 2i. Would you expect to achieve any of these outcomes without UK CRF support?	6. Would the project duplicate other national or local provision?	3. Project proposal does not duplicate other national or local provision.*
Links to 1b, 1e, 2a, 2b, 2e, 2g	7. Would the project conflict with national policy?	4. Project proposal does not conflict with national policy.*
8. Branding and publicity	8. Will the project be delivered in accordance with branding requirements?	7. Project proposal will be delivered in accordance with branding requirements.
N/A	N/A	8. Project proposal has been submitted by the lead authority. Bids submitted independently from the lead authority will not be accepted.
N/A	N/A	9. The lead authority must also show they have led an open process by which organisations are invited to submit bids.
N/A	If the answer to 3-7 is partial, if ineligible activity is removed is there still a viable project?	*Criteria 2-4 and 6 are assessed as Pass/Fail/Partial. Where the project could proceed with amendments, it will be considered to pass Gateway Criteria.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria 1 – Strategic Fit (5 sub-criteria)

- Contribution to local needs and local plans with evidence of local support
- Contribution to investment priorities
- Contribution to net zero objectives or wider environmental considerations (n/a for Employment Support Interventions)
- Extent of transferable learning or opportunity to scale up for local partners and UK government
- Extent to which innovation in service delivery is demonstrated

Strategic Fit

Application Form	Assessment Template	Assessment Criteria
<p>1d. How will the activities be delivered?</p> <p>2a. What will be the short and long term benefits of the project on its beneficiaries and the wider community?</p> <p>2d. How does the project demonstrate innovation in service delivery?</p> <p>2e. Which groups will your UK Community Renewal Fund project target?</p> <p>2g. What UK Community Renewal Fund Outcomes will the project deliver?</p> <p>3a. How much UK Community Renewal Fund investment is sought?</p>	<p>Section 1 - Strategic fit</p> <p>1. Please consider the proposal's overall contribution to the strategic objectives of the UK Community Renewal Fund?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What is the level of contribution to an articulated investment priority identified in the Prospectus? •To what extent can the project inform UKSPF through transferable learning or opportunity to scale up for local partners and UK Government? •What is the extent to which the project demonstrates innovation in service delivery? 	<p>2. Level of contribution to an articulated investment priority set out at sections 3.2 to 3.5 in the prospectus</p> <p>As a minimum, projects will need to articulate: the priority groups they intend to support; the proposed project activities and the applicable interventions they propose to deliver under sections 3.2 - 3.5 in the prospectus; and how the interventions will deliver and contribute to relevant fund outcomes.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on priority groups or interventions identified in the prospectus and • will deliver a significant and observable contribution to relevant fund outcomes (e.g. 100 people have moved into employment, including self-employment, following support). <p>Project Applicants should consider summarising the customer journey using a flow chart showing specific project activities; and/or provide a supporting logic model or theory of change which clearly demonstrates the links between the activities and inputs, outputs and outcomes.</p>
<p>2b. How does the proposal align with local needs and long-term strategic plans for local growth?</p>	<p>2. How well does the proposal contribute to local needs set out in relevant local plans. What evidence is there of local support?</p>	<p>1. Level of contribution to local needs articulated in relevant local plans and with evidence of local support.</p> <p>As a minimum, projects will need to articulate how they demonstrate strategic fit as defined under 3.2 – 3.5 in the prospectus and reference local needs.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly address a priority intervention in a local plan – such as investing in a target sector or place, or • where there is clear support from local partners such as other local authorities or elected representatives. <p>Note - Lead Authorities will also provide an assessment of this criterion which UK Government will take into account.</p>

Strategic Fit (cont.)

Application Form



Assessment Template



Assessment Criteria

<p>2c. How does the project support the Government's Net Zero ambitions or wider environmental considerations? (This is not a requirement for employment support proposals)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>3. The extent of contribution to net zero objectives, as set out at section 3.1.1 of the prospectus, or wider environmental considerations (not applicable to employment support interventions)</p> <p>As a minimum, bids should meet the clean growth principle and not conflict with the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they actively support progress to net zero for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting and supporting innovative clean technology • supporting net zero skills and supply chains e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Considering carbon literacy and wider environmental consideration for skills sectors being supported; o Full carbon footprinting, supporting carbon and environmental impacts in key supply chains; o Community engagement & supporting local climate plans.
<p>6a. A key objective of the UK Community Renewal Fund is to try new ways of delivering activity to businesses and people. It is important that projects are robustly evaluated and that learning is shared with others.</p> <p>Please limit your responses to around 500 words and describe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the project will be evaluated, in terms of how it was delivered and its impact on clients • how the findings of the evaluation will be disseminated 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>4. The extent to which the project can inform the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through transferable learning or opportunity to scale up for local partners and UK government.</p> <p>As a minimum, projects should commit to project level evaluation and to work collaboratively with the UK government on programme level evaluation.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approach has demonstrable application elsewhere, or • is trialling a response to an identified priority set out in section 3.2 to 3.5 of the prospectus.
<p>2d. How does the project demonstrate innovation in service delivery?</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>5. The extent to which the project demonstrates innovation in service delivery.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing new delivery approaches (for example, trialling new modes of delivery) • delivering integrated approaches across policy themes or • achieving collaboration across more than one place.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria 2 – Deliverability, Effectiveness & Efficiency (5 sub-criteria)

- Delivery by 31 March 2022 with realistic milestones
- Project risks identified, adequately mitigated incl. project-level management controls
- Efficient mode of delivery incl. VfM, contribution to outputs, match funding/leverage to maximise impact
- Additionality
- An effective monitoring and evaluation strategy

Deliverability, Effectiveness & Efficiency

Application Form	Assessment Template	Assessment Criteria
<p>4a. What experience does the organisation have of delivering this type of activity?</p> <p>4b. Describe the resources (e.g. staff) the organisation has available now to deliver the project?</p> <p>4c. If the organisation will have to recruit staff or appoint contractors what plans are in place to manage the risk of delay?</p> <p>4d. Describe the systems and processes that will be used to ensure only costs directly related to the project will be included in grant claims.</p> <p>1c. Who will deliver the activities?</p> <p>3b. Does the funding package include any match funding? If so, how much? When will any funding that is not in place be secured?</p> <p>3c. What will the funding package be spent on?</p> <p>3d. How has the overall budget been estimated, what has been done to test that it is accurate, how would any unexpected costs be managed?</p> <p>7a. Does any aspect of the project involve the provision of subsidies (or State Aid)?</p> <p>7b. If yes, briefly explain how the subsidies or state aid are compliant with the UK's subsidy control regime as set out in the guidance.</p>	<p>Please consider the overall deliverability of the proposal including project risks, and financial due diligence where required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the applicant (and delivery partner(s) where relevant) have relevant experience in delivering projects of this type? • Does the applicant have in place the resources necessary to deliver the project, including any match funding? • Are the milestones realistic and is the project deliverable within the stated timescale? <p>a) What is the risk that the project will not proceed in line with the stated timescales?</p> <p>b) What is the risk that the project will not proceed in line with the stated budget?</p> <p>c) What is the risk that the project will not achieve the stated outputs and results?</p> <p>Has Due Diligence been undertaken? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, is the applicant able to manage the project as described? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, subject to conditions <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>1. That it can be delivered as proposed by March 2022 with realistic milestones identified.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities, skills, capability, or capacity needed • a fully secured funding package (including match funding where relevant) or a clear and realistic plan to secure prior to project start • a good understanding of how the proposal is compliant with UK subsidy control regime (where relevant) • under Part 1 (Q1i), the Application sets out a realistic timetable which includes milestones for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Securing internal approvals for the project or any other funding o Establishing the project team o project launch and recruiting beneficiaries, o key points on the beneficiary journey o procurement for external services/suppliers
<p>5a. Summarise the key risks to the project in Annex C – Project Risks</p> <p>5b. Describe the process and that will be used to monitor risk.</p>		<p>2. Project risks have been identified and are adequately mitigated, including project-level management controls.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carefully considered and identified implementation and delivery risks • there are corresponding and appropriate mitigations for key risks • arrangements for managing and escalating risk are articulated including roles and responsibilities • contingency plans are in place to manage risks, including project delays.

Deliverability, Effectiveness & Efficiency (cont.)

Application Form	Assessment Template	Assessment Criteria
<p>6a A key objective of the UK Community Renewal Fund is to try new ways of delivering activity to businesses and people. It is important that projects are robustly evaluated and that learning is shared with others. Please limit your responses to around 500 words and describe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the project will be evaluated, in terms of how it was delivered and its impact on clients • how the findings of the evaluation will be disseminated <p>3c. What will the funding package be spent on?</p> <p>2h. How have the outcomes been estimated?</p>	<p>Please consider the overall effectiveness of the proposal including monitoring and evaluation plans, the project budget and proposed outputs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an effective monitoring and evaluation strategy been identified? • Does the project budget reflect the stated activities? Is the budget reasonable in the light of the activities? • Do the stated outputs reflect the project activities and are they achievable? 	<p>5. An effective monitoring and evaluation strategy has been identified for the project.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they set out well developed and credible plans that have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key actions identified for baselining, monitoring, data collection and dissemination of lessons learnt. • a credible approach for an effective evaluation that is appropriate to project size and covers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o appropriateness of initial design o progress against targets o delivery and management o outcomes and impact o value for money o lessons learnt o Note - the approach will vary depending on the scale and nature of each project and evaluation may be undertaken by someone with necessary skills (whether in-house or external).
<p>2d How does the project demonstrate innovation in service delivery?</p> <p>2g What UK Community Renewal Fund Outcomes will the project deliver?</p> <p>2h How have the outcomes been estimated?</p> <p>3a How much UK Community Renewal Fund investment is sought?</p> <p>3b Does the funding package include any match funding? If so, how much? When will any funding that is not in place be secured?</p>	<p>Please consider the overall efficiency of the proposal, including Value for Money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project represent an efficient mode of delivery, taking account of the level of innovation proposed? • Will it operate at an appropriate scale, providing good value for money taking account of project costs, match funding (excluding employment interventions), proposed outputs delivered and potential impact? • Is it clear that the project would not proceed, or could only be delivered on a smaller scale without UK Community Renewal Fund support? 	<p>3. The applicant sets out an efficient mode of delivery, taking account of the level of innovation proposed and will operate at an appropriate scale. This shall include an assessment of value for money taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought • the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact (not applicable to employment interventions). <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include a realistic theory of change demonstrating how outcomes will flow from the interventions, at an efficient rate and an appropriate scale • demonstrate value for money taking account of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought o the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact <p>UK Government assessment will take account of innovation in service delivery (including potential higher initial costs of innovative delivery approaches).</p> <p>Note - match funding is not a requirement for any project and will not be an assessment consideration for projects solely focused on employment interventions.</p>
<p>2i. Would you expect to achieve any of these outcomes without UK Community Renewal Fund support?</p>		<p>4. That the project would not proceed without funding or could only be delivered on a smaller scale.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they have clearly articulated the additional outcomes, benefits and impacts UK Community Renewal Funding will achieve, compared with the status quo.</p>

Equalities Impact

Application Form



Assessment Template



Assessment Criteria

2f. Please describe how you have considered the equalities impacts of your proposal, the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and any measures you propose in response to these impacts.

Equalities Impacts (For UKG information – does not form part of assessment criteria)

What equalities impacts have been considered? Who are the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and what if any are the measures identified in response to these impacts?

N/A

Summary of the UKCRF Application Form

Applicant Information / Investment Priorities	Part 6. Evaluation
Part 1. Project Summary	Part 7. Subsidy Control
Part 2. Project Impact	Part 8. Branding and Publicity
Part 3. Funding Package	Part 9. Project Applicant Statement
Part 4. Project Applicant Experience and Capacity	Annex A. Project Impact Indicators Annex B. Funding Package and Profile
Part 5. Project Risk Management	Annex C. Project Risks

UKCRF Application Form

Applicant Information

- Applicant information
- Value of funding requested
- Investment priorities being met

Part 1 – Project Summary

- The What, the Who (delivery and beneficiaries), the How, the Where and the When
- Milestones
- Word count limits apply

UKCRF Application Form

Part 2 – Project Impact

- Short and long terms benefits to beneficiaries and wider community
- Alignment with local needs and strategic plans for growth
- Support towards Net Zero ambitions/wider environmental considerations
- Innovation in service delivery
- Project target groups and outcomes (incl. how numbers estimated)
- Annex A – Project Impact Indicators
- Equalities impacts
- Word count limits apply

UKCRF Application Form

Part 3 – Funding Package

- Amount of CRF sought
- Match funding, incl. when secured
- What the funding will be spent on
- How costs have been estimated and management of unexpected costs
- Annex B – Funding Package and Profile

UKCRF Application Form

Part 4 – Project Applicant Experience and Capacity

- Existing experience of delivering type of activity
- Resources (e.g. staff) available now to deliver activity
- How risk of delays will be managed if recruiting staff/appointing contractors
- Systems and process to ensure only eligible and directly incurred costs are included in claims
- Word count limits apply

UKCRF Application Form

Part 5 – Project Risk Management

- Summary of key risks and processes used to monitor risks
- Annex C – Project Risks
- Word count limits apply

Part 6 – Evaluation

- Objective of CRF is to try new ways of delivering activity. Robust evaluation and shared learning is important
- Costs are included in claims
- Word count limits apply

UKCRF Application Form

Part 7 – Subsidy Control

- All projects must consider how they will deliver in line with UK Subsidy Control Rules and how they are compliant with the regime

Part 8 – Branding and Publicity

- All projects must confirm they will comply with branding and publicity requirements including displaying UK Government logo and prominent reference to UKCRF on website and printed materials
- Data Protection statement

UKCRF Application Form

Part 9 – Project Applicant Statement

- Declaration by applicant

Annex A – Project Impact Indicators

Annex B – Funding Package and Profile

Annex C – Project Risks

Annex D – General guidance for completing application form

Questions and next steps

- Any further questions on the application form or assessment criteria?
- Are any organisations seeking partners to collaborate on bids?
- All slides and any additional guidance will also be shared on the Sunderland CRF website: [UK Community Renewal Fund - Sunderland - Sunderland City Council](#)
- **Remember the deadline is 5pm on 17 May 2021. We cannot accept late or incomplete applications.**
- All enquiries and applications should be submitted via the following email address: external.funding@sunderland.gov.uk