



UK Community Renewal Fund - Sunderland

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

Call published: Friday 9 April 2021

Call deadline: 5:00pm, Monday 17 May 2021

Privacy Notice

A separate Privacy Notice has been published in relation to this call. This explains your rights and gives you the information you are entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018. Please consult this prior to making an application.

Introduction

Sunderland City 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. They are available [here](#).

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. Successful projects will therefore need to commence delivery immediately in August/September 2021 to ensure that activities can be completed by 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.

Sunderland City Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Sunderland City 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 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

The types of activities listed below are not exhaustive. Please consult the Prospectus and Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers for more information on the costs and activities that could be supported.

Investment in skills	Examples might include work-based training, retraining/upskilling/reskilling the existing workforce, promoting digital skills development and inclusion.
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.
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.
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, 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.

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.

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 Sunderland City Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities.

Projects should benefit the Sunderland local authority area. Activities may also benefit Sunderland and adjacent local authority areas where cross-border and joint working is considered the most effective delivery mechanism.

The City Council is keen to receive project applications that will contribute to key local growth and community renewal priorities, such as those set out in the following key documents:

- The Sunderland City Plan available [here](#).
- Sunderland Community Wealth Building Delivery Plan available [here](#).
- Sunderland's Neighbourhood Investment Plans available [here](#).
- Sunderland's Community Led Local Development programme and Local Development Strategy available [here](#).
- Sunderland's Smart City Ambition available [here](#).
- Sunderland's city-wide Low Carbon Framework available [here](#).

Several key challenges exist in the local economy, some of which have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Alongside UK Community Renewal Fund priorities, project activities should seek to address these local challenges by piloting new approaches and interventions to:

- Improve employment rates and create more workplace opportunities.
- Address health and disability barriers to work.
- Raise skill levels and tackle digital exclusion.
- Create more and better jobs.
- Boost enterprise growth, promote entrepreneurship, and accelerate digital adoption and innovation.

- Address inequalities and deprivation within communities and across different groups.

How Bids Will be Assessed

As the lead authority Sunderland City 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

Following assessment Sunderland City 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 UK Government will assess all bids submitted by lead authorities against the criteria set out in the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus.

Organisations seeking to deliver project activities in Sunderland should consult the Assessment Criteria carefully and note that Sunderland has not been identified as a 'priority place' for the UK Community Renewal Fund. It is therefore imperative that applications strongly meet the Fund's objectives and score a minimum of 80% against the selection criteria for both:

- Criteria 1 – Strategic fit
- Criteria 2 – Deliverability, effectiveness, and efficiency

The UK Government will announce the outcome of the assessment process from late July 2021 onwards. Successful projects will need to commence delivery immediately in August/September 2021 to ensure that activities can be completed by March 2022.

Sunderland City Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders.

Match funding

Match funding is not a requirement for any project. However, where additional funding options exist to add value or strengthen a bid, organisations should consider leveraging this additional funding to maximise impact. This might include securing other funds such as the Sunderland Community Led Local Development programme

which is currently open for expressions of interest. Further information can be found [here](#) on the current CLLD call for projects and how to apply.

Submitting a CRF Bid

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

Bids must be submitted to Sunderland City Council using this email address: external.funding@sunderland.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by 5:00pm on Monday 17 May 2021.

If you are intending to submit a bid, please allow sufficient time to prepare and submit a strong proposal. We also ask that organisations intending to submit a proposal send an email to the above email address indicating their intent to bid by Friday 30 April 2021. This is an optional measure and only to provide the lead authority with an indication of the potential number of applications that it can expect to receive before the deadline.

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

Further information

Please consult the UK Community Renewal Fund website [here](#) for the following guidance documents:

- UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus
- Application Form
- Assessment Criteria
- Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers
- Technical Note for Lead Authorities
- UK Community Renewal Fund: frequently asked questions
- Privacy Notice for applicants

If you would like to attend a webinar on the Sunderland call for projects or would like to be kept informed about any updates to the above guidance please email: external.funding@sunderland.gov.uk.