

Community Renewal Fund (CRF) frequently asked questions (FAQs) and useful information

This document will be reviewed regularly and/or amended by further information and guidelines issued by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

If you would like more information/guidance or you have a question that has not been answered below, please email CommunityRenewalFund@herefordshire.gov.uk or visit [our Community Renewal Fund webpage](#) and the [CRF privacy notice](#)

Minimum threshold

The prospectus says that you encourage bids of more than £500,000 where this maximises impact and deliverability. Will bids be penalised if they are below this figure? Is there a minimum threshold value for projects?

As set out in the prospectus, we expect to support a range of projects by theme and size, but we encourage applicants to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects (£500,000+) where this is possible.

Applicants should note that the published assessment criteria indicates that projects are likely to score higher where they demonstrate how outcomes will flow from the interventions, at an efficient rate and an appropriate scale, and demonstrate value for money taking account of the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought.

Smaller projects will still be considered and there is no minimum threshold.

Partnership working, cross-sector and regional partnerships

Are there expectations from Government for the bids to be cross-sector partnerships?

This is not an explicit requirement of the fund but is encouraged. The CRF Prospectus provides further information for prospective applicants.

Can we work in partnership with other organisations in preparing the bid, and if successful in delivering the project?

UK Community Renewal Fund projects may be delivered by a consortium of eligible project deliverers. If there is more than one organisation applying to deliver a project, a lead organisation must be selected to become the lead applicant with the remaining organisation(s) acting as delivery partner(s). In this situation the applicant would be responsible and liable for the delivery partner(s) and ensuring the project is operating as planned.

There is no further specific guidance on forming partnerships to submit bids, but this is encouraged if it brings benefit to the project and meeting local priorities. If you want to work in partnership and are looking for potential partners, please email CommunityRenewalFund@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Can we submit a regional application with a chapter on Herefordshire?

Project applicants can submit a joint proposal to several lead authorities to deliver the same project across the combined area. Any such proposal would need to meet the criteria in all relevant Lead Authority areas and be mindful that submission timescales and processes may be different. Applicants will need to ensure regional bids meet our local priorities and the application would need to demonstrate how the scheme would be delivered in and brought benefit to Herefordshire. The application will be assessed against the same criteria applied to all other applications.

Is Herefordshire Council planning to collaborate with any other LAs?

Herefordshire Council is not planning to apply for this funding. As mentioned above, a regional application is permissible and the Herefordshire element would be assessed against the same criteria applied to all other projects.

Revenue costs and match funding

What is the position on match funding?

Section 7 of the CRF Prospectus states:

“The UK government encourages applicants and lead authorities to maximise the leverage of other funding. This has a number of benefits including enhanced alignment with other provision and efficient delivery which increases value for money.

We recognise that not all projects or applicants will be able to secure match funding, and it is not expected for employment support projects. However, applicants and lead authorities should note that value for money is a selection consideration. This will take the overall funding package for each project, including any match funding, into account.”

Can the 15% overhead cost be claimed on sub contracted consultants costs, or just on employed staff costs?

UK CRF Revenue costs include:

1. staff costs- salaries and contractual benefits, National Insurance and superannuation contributions
2. costs of business travel, subsistence and accommodation
3. 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
4. costs of materials
5. marketing and publicity costs
6. grants provided to end beneficiaries
7. training participant costs e.g. allowances, travel expenses

Overheads can be incurred based on 15% of staff costs only. MHCLG will not accept any other methodologies for calculating overheads. This covers those costs incurred in the delivery of a project but not easily attributed to it through invoices or other transactions e.g.

- support staff/functions not directly related to the implementation and management of the project
- shared premises costs or use of equipment

For more information, please view the [UK CRF Technical Notes for applicants](#)

Herefordshire Local Plans and Evidence Base

Please publish the latest Marches Skills Plan and the evidence base on skills and employment in Herefordshire.

View the [Marches Skills Report](#)

View the [evidence based on Herefordshire Business and Industry](#)

View the [evidence base on employment and skills](#)

View the [evidence based on NEET \(Not in Education, Employment and Training\)](#)

Or visit [Understanding Herefordshire](#)

How will the bids be assessed in terms of relevance to the County Plan and will other local plans also be considered? Examples of local plans include the Zero Carbon Action Plans which cover Transport, Waste, Food/Agriculture, Food, Energy and Buildings.

The bids will be independently assessed including against the County Plan ambitions and local strategic fit. Applicants need to demonstrate how they will address, not only the County Plan but other key local strategies including achievement of Net Zero emissions.

Scoring Criteria

Have you received any other guidance about scoring outputs against financial value for money i.e. what does good look like?

We have received no further guidance on outputs or value for money beyond the CRF prospectus and accompanying guidance as set out in the [government CRF website](#).

As the lead authority, Herefordshire 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, specifically the:
 - Strategic fit (both overall contribution to the strategic objectives of the UK Community Renewal Fund, and how well the proposal contributes to local needs set out in relevant local plans);
 - Deliverability;
 - Effectiveness, and;
 - Efficiency

Bids will be assessed using the UK Government supplied assessment process which is available at UK Community Renewal Fund: assessment criteria (publishing.service.gov.uk) Applicants should familiarise themselves with the assessment process and ensure that they provide sufficient information to enable the assessor to make an accurate assessment against all the assessment criteria.

What projects you are looking to support?

We have deliberately not further constrained the government criteria with the exception of indicating local priorities and strategic fit. We hope this enables potential bidders to have flexibility to put forward solutions / projects that they consider meet the local need / demand. Ideally we would want to be able to consider projects from across the four government priorities (skills, employment, investment in business, communities and place) but we do not have any specific projects in mind.

Further advice

These FAQs will be updated periodically as and when we get further queries or advice from government.

There are further [CRF FAQs on the MHCLG website](#).