

**Welcome to the
Herefordshire
Community Renewal
Fund Workshop**



Overview of the UK Community Renewal Fund

UK Community Renewal Fund

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Key Features of the Fund

- The UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) will provide £220 million of additional funding for the financial year 2021/22 only to help local areas prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022
- The Fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches to help inform the design of and prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- The CRF invests in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment
- Herefordshire is one of 100 priority places for investment based on an index of economic resilience across Great Britain, which measures productivity, household income, unemployment, skills and population density
- **90% revenue funding / 10% capital**

- Each Lead Authority area can seek up to £3m of funding on behalf of local project applicants, with short listed proposals to be submitted to government on the 18th June 2021 – no guarantees
- Approved projects to be delivered (and spent) between circa August 2021 and 31 March 2022.
- The national guidance states government will support a range of projects by theme and size, but encourage applicants to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects (£500,000+) **where this is possible.**
- Match funding not required, but applicants are encouraged to maximise leverage of other funding
- Project proposals should demonstrate alignment with strategic plans relevant to each place as well as local need.

Investment Priorities

- **Investment in skills**
 - Work-based training
 - Retraining, upskilling or reskilling members of the workforce
 - Promoting the advancement of digital skills 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

Investment Priorities

- **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 each of these priorities
- Projects should demonstrate the extent contributes to net zero objectives or wider environmental considerations. This does not apply for interventions focused on supporting people into employment

Who can apply?

- Any legally constituted organisation includes local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies and registered charities
- Private sector organisations and registered charities can deliver where they are providing a service to benefit other organisations or individuals BUT they cannot receive funding if the intention of the project is to further their own business/organisation
- Individuals cannot apply

How to apply

Herefordshire Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Herefordshire Council is responsible for:

- issuing invitation to bid
- receiving bids
- selecting the bids that will be sent to UK Government for consideration
- paying grants to successful projects and managing their performance

- Any organisation interested in submitting a proposal should visit the council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund>
- Please read the 'UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus' and the 'UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverer's' before starting work on a bid.
- Suggest also reading the Technical Note for Lead Authorities and the government assessment process.

How to apply

- Bids must be submitted using the UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form, which is available at UK Community Renewal Fund: prospectus -GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.
- Bids must be submitted to Herefordshire Council using this email address:
- CommunityRenewalFund@herefordshire.gov.uk
- Deadline for applications is 11.59 PM on the 23rd May 2021. Bids received after this deadline will not be considered.
- The UK Community Renewal Fund is a competitive process and Herefordshire Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders.
- Questions relating to this process should be directed to CommunityRenewalFund@herefordshire.gov.uk To ensure equality of access to information about the bidding process, responses may be shared with all prospective bidders.

Assessment

- Local assessment will be based on the government's own assessment criteria.
- To ensure fairness the council will be using external consultants to assess applications.
- Assessments will likely result in applications being:
 - Rejected
 - Approved
 - Approved with conditions
- Applications will be scored and a report issued to the council with recommendations.
- Report and scoring will form the basis of the council's decision in terms of what bids are submitted to government.

Timeline	
Deadline for project proposals to be submitted to Herefordshire Council	23:59 Sunday 23 May 2021
Project proposals appraised, prioritised and submitted to Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)	Noon on 18 June 2021
Bids assessed by UK Government and announcements	Anticipated late July/ early August 2021
Estimated project start date	Anticipated August/September 2021
Project activity completed and funding spent by	31 March 2022

Observations

- It's a government pilot for Shared Prosperity Fund.
- It's a tight delivery timescale.
- There's a high suggested minimum bid threshold.
- Revenue funding is restrictive.
- Flexibility to address local priorities.
- Government ultimately make the decision.