



# UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

## Introduction

Durham 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 and the UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers at [Gov.uk: UK Community Renewal Fund - prospectus, technical note and application form](#) before starting work on a bid.

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.

## 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.

Durham County Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Durham County 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 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.

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 Durham County Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities. This will be based on the local priorities as set out in the County Durham Vision 2035 and County Durham Regeneration Statement

<http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8453/County-Durham-Vision-2035>

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2385/Regeneration-Statement#:~:text=The%20Regeneration%20Statement%20recognises%20the,and%20tackles%20constraints%20on%20growth.>

Geographic Coverage - projects should benefit the following places:

- County Durham local authority area.

## How Bids Will be Assessed

As the lead authority Durham 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 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 Durham 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.

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

The UK Government will announce the outcome of the assessment process from late July 2021 onwards.

Durham County Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders.

## Procurement

UK Community Renewal Fund expenditure incurred through procurements by public sector bodies is governed by UK procurement regulations. For procurement undertaken by non-public sector project deliverers or beneficiaries we would expect applicants to follow the lead body's procurement as set out in Annex 1

Please set out in Section 4 of the application form details of how any activity will be procured.

## Claims

It is anticipated that claims will be paid quarterly in arrears on eligible expenditure spent by 31 March 2022. This may be subject to change on receipt of further guidance.

If an applicant/delivery body is unable to cashflow the project then in exceptional circumstances it may be possible to provide advance payments based on actual costs. Applicants will need to demonstrate and provide evidence as to why this is the case which will then be reviewed, however we cannot guarantee that we would be able to amend the payment terms.

## Submitting a Bid

Bids must be submitted using the UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form, which is available at [Gov.uk: UK Community Renewal Fund - prospectus, technical note and application form](#). Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

Bids must be submitted to Durham County Council using this email address:  
funding@durham.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by 12 noon on Tuesday, 11 May 2021.

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

Annex 1: Procurement  
 GOODS and Services (general)

Estimated Contract Value	Quotation or Tender	Minimum Advertising Requirement	Selection Stage allowed?	Risk assess?
£500 - £5,000	Single Quotation	No advertising required. May obtain more than one quote for comparison, if desired.	No	No
£5,001 - £50,000	Quotations	Price Only: Invite at least 4 suppliers (at least 2 to be identified by Officer) via Quick Quote on NEPO ProContract	No	If required
£5,001 - £189,330	Restricted Tender	Price + Quality: Invite at least 3 suppliers on NEPO ProContract <i>and</i> award on Contracts Finder (>£25k)	No	If required
£5,001 - £189,330	Open Tender	Price + Quality: Openly advertised on NEPO ProContract <i>and</i> in Contracts Finder (>£25k)	No	Mandatory
Over £189,330	FTS Tender	Open or Restricted Tender, advertised on NEPO ProContract <i>and</i> in FTS and Contracts Finder	Yes	Mandatory