

UK Community Renewal Fund: Sunderland webinar

15, 16, 19, 20 April 2021

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Agenda

1. Purpose of the session
2. Introduction to the UKCRF
3. The Invitation to Submit Project Bids document
4. UKCRF guidance documents
5. The Application process & key dates
6. The Application Form & Assessment Criteria
7. Top tips
8. Key messages / Q&As

Purpose of today's session

- Provide an overview of the Government's CRF Programme
- Raise awareness of the Invitation to Submit Bids published on 9 April 2021
- Discuss the 4 priority themes and identify potential projects
- Explain the application process and timetable
- Ensure you have access to and understand the guidance
- Encourage you to collaborate with other local organisations
- Confirm that you are happy to share your contact details with other attendees (if not please opt out by sending us an email)
- Answer any initial questions

Introduction to the UKCRF

- The £220m UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) was launched in the March Budget
- Part of the wider 'Levelling Up' agenda, alongside the Levelling Up Fund, the Community Ownership Fund and other measures
- The programme is competitive and requires 'lead authorities' (local authorities, Combined Authorities) to run an open call for project bids
- Lead authorities are responsible for inviting project proposals from a range of local applicants.
- 100 areas have been given 'priority place' status – Sunderland is not one of them, however, all places across the UK are eligible for pilot funding
- Nationally, CRF grant is split 90% revenue and 10% capital
- Successful bidders are expected to be notified in July and all delivery must be financially complete by **31 March 2022**

Introduction to the UKCRF

- The Fund is intended to help the UK *‘move smoothly away from the EU structural fund programme and prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.’*
- The focus is on supporting *‘pilot programmes and new approaches ahead of the UKSPF, to better support people and communities in need across the UK.’*
- It will *‘support innovative responses to local challenges and local need in urban, rural and coastal areas across the UK.’*
- Government want to *‘use the UK Community Renewal Fund to test greater integration of types of interventions and greater flexibility between investment themes than places could have under EU funding arrangements.’*
- Being listed as a ‘priority place’ does not guarantee funding.
- Applications from other places that demonstrate a strong alignment with strategic fit and good delivery/effectiveness may also receive funding.
- There is no minimum value, but Government is encouraging larger, collaborative bids of c.£500,000 where this is possible.

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.

Sunderland - Invitation to Submit Project Bids (‘the call document’)

- Summary of the UKCRF objectives
- Sets out the local timetable and application deadline
- Provides a summary of the 4 investment priorities
- Explains that Sunderland is not one of the ‘100 priority places’ and what this means for project applicants
- Refers to key local priorities and links to local key documents
- Includes links to all key guidance on the UKCRF website

Local Priorities



The Sunderland City Plan - [City Plan - Sunderland City Council](#)

- Creating a dynamic, healthy and vibrant city
- Creating more and better jobs
- Supporting more local people with better qualifications and skills to enable them to participate in and benefit from a stronger economy
- Continuing health improvements and expanding community resources to improve physical and social wellbeing
- Generating more creative and cultural businesses

Sunderland Community Wealth Building Delivery Plan - [Community Wealth Building - Sunderland City Council](#)

- Promoting business growth and investment including support to build the capacity of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector



Neighbourhood Investment Plans - [Neighbourhood Investment Plans - Sunderland City Council](#)

- Community empowerment, engagement and involvement – Neighbourhood Investment Plans were developed in consultation with residents and partners
- Improving community resilience – helping residents and communities to be resilient and support with recovery during and following the Covid-19 pandemic

Local Priorities



Smart City Ambition - [Sunderland Smart City | Home | Welcome to Our Smart City of Sunderland \(sunderlandoursmartcity.com\)](#)

- Driving business innovation through digital adoption and acceleration
- Investing in digital literacy and skills across all learning programmes
- Supporting key industry sectors such as creative industries, health and life sciences, advanced manufacturing and engineering
- Connecting and supporting people and communities through effective digital innovation and adoption



Sunderland's Community Led Local Development programme and Local Development Strategy - [Community Led Local Development - Sunderland City Council](#)

- Targeting the most deprived communities and hard to reach individuals through a range of community-led projects
- Enhancing employment and skills provision
- Boosting enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Improving community capacity, partnership working and social innovation

Local Priorities



Sunderland's city-wide Low Carbon Framework - [Low Carbon - Sunderland City Council](#)

- Setting out Sunderland's approach to reduce its carbon emissions, achieving carbon neutrality and creating a lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all
- Low Carbon priorities include: engaging with residents, communities and partners and encourage positive behaviour change; growing the city's green economy and engaging businesses to work towards environmental sustainability; developing an energy efficient built environment and developing renewal energy generation and storage capacity



Sunderland Housing Strategy - [Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2017 -2022 - Sunderland City Council](#)

Local priorities could also link to the key outcomes that underpin Sunderland's Housing Strategy:

- Making the best use of existing homes and improving our neighbourhoods
- Supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing



North East Strategic Economic Plan - [The Strategic Economic Plan | North East LEP](#)

- Growing a more productive, inclusive and sustainable regional economy
- Increase the number of jobs in the North East economy by 100,000 by 2024
- Ensure that 70% of the jobs growth is in better jobs
- Increasing investment in business research, development and innovation by 50% between 2014 and 2024
- Improving productivity, social mobility and living standards.

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.

Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers

- It is crucial that you read this document alongside the UKCRF prospectus.
- It covers:
 - Who can apply and how to submit a bid
 - Who and what a funded project can support (including sample definitions of revenue and capital costs)
 - Excluded costs and activities
 - State Aid and Subsidy Control
 - Branding and publicity requirements
 - Monitoring and evaluation requirements, including data monitoring and indicator definitions (Annexes A and B).

Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers

- Please be aware that the technical guidance note may be updated - all users must ensure they are using the most up to date versions of all documents which will be available on the fund website.
- Further detailed guidance will be provided on UK Community Renewal Fund monitoring and evaluation requirements later in Spring.
- This will include information on assurance, monitoring and data requirements, the national evaluation approach and the funding agreement template.
- The Fund may fund up to 100% of the costs incurred in delivering activity.
- Applicants are encouraged to maximise the leverage of other funding, where appropriate.

The Application process and key dates

Milestone	Date
Invitation to Bid issued in SCC website	9 April 2021
Initial briefing session with stakeholders	w/c 12 April and w/c 19 April 2021
Intent to submit an application (optional)	30 April 2021
Submission of application to SCC	By 5pm on Monday 17 May 2021
Assessment of applications and shortlisting	17 May – 17 June 2021
Submission of Sunderland bid to Government	By noon on Friday 18 June 2021
Government announcement of successful bids	Late July onwards
Contracting / Funding Agreements	August 2021
Delivery	Sept 2021 – March 2022

UKCRF Application Form

The responses in the Full Application Form should detail:

- Exactly what is being delivered
- Who will be delivering the activity
- How the activity will be delivered and to who
- Timescales for delivery
- Costs of delivery and funding breakdown and profile
- Detailed output breakdown
- Publicity, equal opportunities, experience, risks and evaluation
- How the project will evidence all of the above

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

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)

Assessment Criteria

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

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

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

Top tips

- Read the guidance and do your research.
- Catch the attention of the reader, then get straight into answering the question.
- Start writing early. Don't talk about it for weeks and then only begin writing the application at the last minute!
- Keep sentences short and simple.
- Collaborate with others and share the workload.
- Demonstrate that you have consulted with key stakeholders.
- Back up your statements with relevant, recent evidence or data.
- Review, edit it ruthlessly, avoid repetition.
- Avoid errors and missing key details.

Key messages and next steps

- Start thinking quickly about your ideas and how to turn them into practice.
- Collaboration on joint projects is encouraged at all levels – thematically, sectorally, geographically.
- Consider using this exercise as a trial run to develop your project idea, and if it's not successful adapt and improve for next time.
- If attendees do not want their contact name, organisation name and email address sharing with other attendees please opt out by Wednesday 21 April using the email below.
- 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