



Blackpool Council

UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

Introduction

Blackpool 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 (with approvals expected from late July 2021) and activity must end in March 2022.

Background

To help local areas prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (the successor to the European Structural Funds), 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.

Blackpool Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Blackpool 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. Further details of the anticipated nature of activity to be supported under each priority can be found in the prospectus.

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. Blackpool Council recognise that this is a high figure outlined by Government to be committed in such a short space of time. But in line with this preference, Blackpool Council would therefore like to encourage bids for a minimum of £100,000, unless there is a very specific rationale for a lower value scheme which should be highlighted clearly in your bid submission.

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.

Who can apply for funding?

Any legally constituted organisation can receive funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund to deliver an approved project. This includes local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies and registered charities (assuming the latter two organisation types are delivering support to benefit others). Further details are provided in the UK Community Renewal Fund Technical note for project applicants and deliverers available [here](#).

Given the intention to support projects of scale, consortium bids are welcomed. In this scenario, a lead organisation should be identified.

What are the target outcomes?

The UK Community Renewal Fund seeks to support people and communities most in need across the UK. Government has identified Blackpool as a Priority 1 area for the UK Community Renewal Fund, using an index of economic resilience which measures productivity, household income, unemployment, skills and population density.

Government has identified a series of outcomes that they expect supported activity to contribute towards. Details are provided within the UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers, Annex A available [here](#).

Please bear these in mind when developing your proposal. The ability to deliver against these indicators will inform the value for money assessment as well as demonstrating its contribution to the fund objectives.

Local Priorities

In selecting the bids that will be forwarded to the UK Government for consideration, Blackpool Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities.

Bidders should consider how their proposals align with the Council's strategic ambitions/priorities namely: - .

- **Our vision for Blackpool is that we will:**
Retain our position as the UK's number one family resort, with a thriving economy that supports a happy and healthy community who are proud of this unique town.
- **Our two priorities::**
Priority one - The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
Priority two - Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience

Consideration should also be given to how projects respond to key challenges facing the Blackpool economy and communities, such as:

- Recognising the severe impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the economy with impacts likely to continue over the coming year, including the potential need for reskilling to support people to access alternative employment.
- High levels of deprivation including benefit dependency within the population, including long-term unemployment affecting some groups.
- High proportions of households falling within low-income socio-demographic groups.

- The low number of adults with basic skills (literacy, numeracy, digital) and low proportion of adults with higher level qualifications.
- Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion – for example supporting the development of digital skills for digitally excluded individuals, especially where digital exclusion presents a barrier to employment, building confidence in application of basic and advanced digital skills and promoting safety and awareness online.
- Very high levels of 16-24 year olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- Lower than average employment density and productivity rates, plus a reduction in active enterprises in recent years.
- Expand and diversify the economy, to reduce the dependence on the visitor economy
- Areas in need of significant regeneration where there is a clear vision and ambition for renewal, for example, the Claremont and Revoe masterplans.
- Building on Blackpool's existing appeal as a visitor destination to increase overall visitor numbers and the breadth of visitors attracted to the town.
- Supporting Blackpool to meet its objective to be net zero carbon by 2030.
- Ways of improving the national perception of Blackpool as well as local pride
- To achieve top quartile employment rates of our 16-24 year olds compared to Lancashire authorities

Geographic Coverage - projects should benefit the following places:

- All of Blackpool is eligible
- We are interested in schemes that may add value by operating across local authority boundaries i.e. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre.

How Bids Will Be Assessed

An independent consultant will be appointed to complete a Stage 1 appraisal of all submitted schemes and will therefore have access to your bid. A Stage 2 review will then be completed by a panel comprising Blackpool Council, as the lead authority for the bid, and external representatives from the Blackpool Town Deal Board and Investment Panel. 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

The assessment process is further outlined in **Annex 1** at the end of this document.

Projects scoring sufficiently for inclusion in the master bid will be subject to due diligence ahead of the submission being made. Further details of this process will be shared with affected parties at the relevant time.

Following assessment, Blackpool Council will submit those eligible bids that most strongly meet the UK Community Renewal Fund and local priorities to the UK Government for consideration, up to a maximum total of £3m.

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.

Following confirmation of a funding award, Blackpool Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders.

Please note: The UK Community Renewal Fund will also provide Lead Authorities with funding to be used towards the costs incurred in managing Fund awards. A flat rate of 2% of the value of the UK Community Renewal Fund spent by each project may be used by Lead Authorities for the costs incurred in managing Fund awards. In circumstances where there is expected to be a large volume of transactions, or complex project delivery, for example, some employment support projects, a flat rate of 3% may be permitted. Blackpool Council reserves the right to include such a request in its submission to government.

Submitting a 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 Blackpool Council using this email address: Regeneration@blackpool.gov.uk . Bids must be submitted by **12 noon on 23rd April 2021**.

Any queries should also be sent to the following email address which we will endeavour to respond to within 48 hours (excluding weekends and bank holidays) Regeneration@blackpool.gov.uk

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

Data Privacy

Under the GDPR “Right to Be Informed” legislation, please note below how Blackpool Council will process your data should you submit a project application.

Title: Community Renewal Fund

Who is responsible for your data?

Blackpool Council and the Ministry of Housing ,Communities and Local Government will act as Joint data controllers for your data:

The MHCLG Knowledge & Access Team can be contacted at;

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2nd floor NW, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

dataprotection@communities.gov.uk

Blackpool Council's data protection officer can be contacted at dataprotectionofficer@blackpool.gov.uk or by writing to Data protection officer, Blackpool Council PO Box 4, Blackpool, FY1 1NA.

Why do we collect your information?

This activity is being overseen by the Communications and Regeneration Directorate within Blackpool Council.

Your information is collected solely based on the information requirements required as set out in the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form.

The information you provide within the form is based upon your decision to make a submission. Your application form will then be appraised by Blackpool Council and independent consultants, and scored against established criteria. Should your application not score high enough to be included in Blackpool Council's final bid submission (by 18th June 2021) your details will not be required to be kept for longer than 1 year from close of application in case of challenge or a request from MHCLG.

Should your application be included in the Blackpool Council bid submission, your details will be passed within, to MHCLG in line with their data protection policy highlighted in the bidding document. You will be made aware of this and the bid success or otherwise. If the project is unsuccessful your data will be kept for only 1 year from close of applications.

If the project is successful, at this point (anticipated decision late July 2021) further details will be provided to you with regards to timescales for holding of personal information which will be in line with the requirements of the MHCLG grant fund.

All completed project application forms and overarching Blackpool Council bid submission will be retained on a secure council internal drive with access limited to relevant departments only including Growth & Prosperity, Finance and Internal Audit. The independent consultants will not retain any details post Blackpool Council bid submission on June 18 2021.

What is our lawful basis?

The lawful basis for the Council to collect and use your personal information is because:

- You have given us clear consent as described and agreed to in the application form.

What types of information do we collect?

The information is only that set out in the official MHCLG application form and includes :-

- Contact name and position
- Postal address, Email address, web address
- Type of organisation/ Company or charity registration number
- Senior responsible Officer contact name

Who do we share your information with?

Your initial bid document is shared with independent consultants for appraisal purposes only.

Any successful project applications included in the master Blackpool Council bid will be shared with and submitted to MHCLG.

If the bid is not successful the Council will not share your information with anyone outside of the relevant council departments.

To find out further information about how Blackpool Council process your personal data please go to www.blackpool.gov.uk/privacy" .

Annex 1 – Assessment Template

The template below sets out how Blackpool Council aims to appraise bids. This is in line with a Government developed template. Although the overall scope of the assessment will remain unchanged, Blackpool Council reserves the right to make minor adjustments, as questions raised with Government are responded to.

Project	
Place:	
Project Name:	
Gateway Criteria	
1. Is the application from an organisation eligible to receive UK Community Renewal Fund support?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the project be complete by 31 st March 2022?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the project address a need identified in the Prospectus?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does the project address a need identified in the local invite to submit bids?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is the proposed activity permissible within subsidy rules or State Aid where relevant?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Would the project duplicate other national or local provision?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Would the project conflict with national policy?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Partial <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the project be delivered in accordance with branding requirements?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If the answer to 3-7 is partial, if ineligible activity is removed is there still a viable project?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If no, project does not meet the eligibility criteria. go straight to Part 4. • If yes, proceed with the assessment and clarify the elements that should be removed from the project. 	
Does the project meet the gateway criteria?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Selection Criteria

The assessment will provide a narrative assessment against the criteria outlined below. The appraisal will also assign scores to the responses to support the prioritisation process.

Minimum score thresholds will be applied across the criteria to ensure that only the strongest projects (in terms of strategic fit, deliverability and value for money) are included in the application to Government.

<p>Section 1 - Strategic fit</p> <p>1. <i>Please consider the proposal's overall contribution to the strategic objectives of the UK Community Renewal Fund</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the level of contribution to an articulated investment priority identified in the Prospectus? • To what extent can the project inform UKSPF through transferable learning or opportunity to scale up for local partners and UK Government? • What is the extent to which the project demonstrates innovation in service delivery?
<p>Comment:</p>
<p>2. <i>How well does the proposal contribute to local needs set out in relevant local plans.</i></p>
<p>Comment:</p>

<p>Section 2 - Deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency</p>
<p><i>Deliverability</i> <i>Please consider the overall deliverability of the proposal including project risks, and financial due diligence where required.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the applicant (and delivery partner(s) where relevant) have relevant experience in delivering projects of this type? • Does the applicant have in place the resources necessary to deliver the project, including any match funding? • Are the milestones realistic and is the project deliverable within the stated timescale?
<p>a) What is the risk that the project will not proceed in line with the stated timescales?</p>
<p>b) What is the risk that the project will not proceed in line with the stated budget?</p>
<p>c) What is the risk that the project will not achieve the stated outputs and results?</p>

Has Due Diligence been undertaken? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, is the applicant able to manage the project as described?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, subject to conditions <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Comment:
<i>Effectiveness</i> <i>Please consider the overall effectiveness of the proposal including monitoring and evaluation plans, the project budget and proposed outputs.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has an effective monitoring and evaluation strategy been identified? • Does the project budget reflect the stated activities? Is the budget reasonable in the light of the activities? • Do the stated outputs reflect the project activities and are they achievable?
Comment:
<i>Efficiency</i> <i>Please consider the overall efficiency of the proposal, including Value for Money.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project represent an efficient mode of delivery, taking account of the level of innovation proposed? • Will it operate at an appropriate scale, providing good value for money taking account of project costs, match funding (excluding employment interventions), proposed outputs delivered and potential impact? • Is it clear that the project would not proceed, or could only be delivered on a smaller scale without UK Community Renewal Fund support?
Comment:

Section 3 Equalities Impacts (For UKG information – does not form part of assessment criteria)
What equalities impacts have been considered? Who are the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and what if any are the measures identified in response to these impacts?

Section 4 - Assessor's Recommendation:			
Comment:			
Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Progress with conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Reject <input type="checkbox"/>			
Completed by:		Date:	
Reviewed by:		Date:	

Proposed Conditions
1
2
3

Section 5 - Lead Authority assessment decision			
Submit to UK Government <input type="checkbox"/> Submit with conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Reject <input type="checkbox"/>			
Comment:			
Conditions, if different to section 3.			
1			
2			
3			
Name		Date:	