



# Blackpool Town Deal Board meeting 17

## Agenda Item 5

Report to: Blackpool Town Deal Board  
Subject: Community Renewal Fund Programme Update  
Relevant Officer: Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director  
Date of Meeting: 20 May 2022

### 1. Purpose of report

To provide the Board with an update on the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Programme as presented and considered by the Town Deal Investment Panel on 11 May 2022.

### 2. Recommendations

To note the progress with the 4 Blackpool Community Renewal fund schemes and to receive the Town Deal Investment Panel's oral update from their meeting on 11 May 2022.

### 3. The four Blackpool schemes

#### 3.1 Ready for Work

Ready for Work (delivered by Inspira Cumbria Ltd.) provides one-to-one and one-to-many support to 18-24 year-old economically inactive or unemployed persons through job searching and life skills support with the objectives of those supported gaining places in education, training or employment.

#### 3.2 The Youth Hub (Trading as 'The Platform')

The Platform (delivered by Blackpool Council) is a physical space to support young people in the town to access jobs and training and to make the jump from school or unemployment into work smoother and easier - the Hub, managed by the Council's Economic and Cultural



Services Team, will provide a 'one place base' providing quality advice for young jobseekers aged 16-24.

### 3.3 Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalysts

This project (delivered by Lancaster University) will improve economic growth & prosperity in Blackpool through high level & high impact innovation, talent & skills programmes - the scheme will work with business of all sizes, and public & voluntary sector organisations to provide one-to-one and one-to-many support to local 'innovation driven businesses' resulting in the development of innovation plans and knowledge transfer activities.

### 3.4 The role of Digital Museums and Archives in culture-led regeneration

This project (delivered by the University of Central Lancashire) will generate tangible insights into how digital museums and archives affect local pride, can be exploited by local communities, improve social cohesion and strengthen collaboration & the collective value of the 'creative economy' through the creation of clusters, networks and virtual communities resulting in the development of innovation plans and knowledge transfer activities.

## 4. Activity Update

### 4.1 Programme Management

The programme is well into the delivery phase with all 4 projects operational.

#### 4.1.1 Current UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Position

A first claims process (including re-profiling due to the late approval / commencement of the projects) has been undertaken to cover scheme activity and expenditure until 31 December 2021. (The claim 1 re-profile request was sent out to Project Managers on 5 January 2022 and responses received between 21 January and 21 April 2022; Claim 1 forms were dispatched between 25 January and 26 April 2022 and responses received between 6 April and 5 May. The current funding position is set out in table one.



## Current Funding Position

Project	Approved total CRF funding (1 Oct 2021 – 30 Jun 2022)	Claim 1 (1 Oct 2021 – 31 Dec 2021) forecast CRF spend	Claim 1 actual CRF spend	Variance (CRF)
Ready for Work	£ 125,628.00	£ 22,860.76	£ 22,921.19	£60.43
The Youth Hub	£ 443,824.00	£ 25,057.00	£ 25,056.42	(£0.58)
Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalysts	£ 180,579.00	£ 2,760.00	£ 2,713.89	(£46.11)
The role of Digital Museums & Archives in culture-led regeneration	£ 13,339.00	£ 2,566.48	£334.78	(£2,231.70)
Totals	£763,370.00	£ 53,244.24	£51,026.28	(£2,217.96)

The underspend will be re-profiled into the following quarters.

Claim 2 forms were dispatched for the first three projects above on 26 April 2022.

UK Community Renewal Fund receipts so far are set out in table two below.

## UK Community Renewal Fund receipts

Tranches received	Total received	Defrayed	Unspent
Pre-development expenditure [Nov 21]	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£0.00
62.5% of revenue (& capital by mistake) [Dec 21]	£486,649.00	£51,026.28	£435,622.72
62.5% of capital [Dec 21]	£25,000.00	£0.00	£25,000.00
Totals	£531,649.00	£71,026.28	£460,622.72

## 4.1.2 Match funding

The programme is funded by the UK Community Renewal Fund with supporting match funding as set out below in table 3. The public funds are provided by the Universities.

## Expenditure by year

Funding sources	2021/22	2022/23	Total
UKCRF total contributions	£372,681.85	£390,688.15	£763,370.00
Public match total contributions	£12,051.10	£13,931.57	£25,982.67
Totals	£384,732.95	£404,619.72	£789,352.67



## 4.2 Progress

### 4.2.1 Ready for Work

- Promotional digital flyer circulated to local services, organisations & networks.
- Presentation to SPARKS local network.
- Promotional twitter campaign delivered.

#### Ready for Work claim 1 results

Result	Claim 1 results predicted	Claim 1 results achieved in period	Total to be achieved by project close
People engaged in job searching following support	0	0	84
People engaged in life skills support following interventions	0	0	10
People in education / training following support	0	0	45
Economically inactive people supported	0	0	45
Unemployed people supported	0	0	45

#### Ready for work claim 2 results

Not yet known.

### 4.2.2 The Youth Hub (trading as 'The Platform')

- Initial meetings with Key partners taken place.
- Innovation fund awarded to BFCCT and Groundwork - only half the overall funds awarded (timeframes dictate the tender can't be re-run).
- One FTE Senior Employment Advisor, two FTE Employment Advisors, Project Co-ordinator in post.
- The identification of suitable candidates from previous caseloads who would benefit from support commenced.
- Building contract signed.
- Staff training commenced.
- Policies, procedures and risk assessments put in place.
- Customer journey and referral systems agreed.
- DWP Work Coaches identified and co-located within the Hub.



The Youth Hub (trading as 'The Platform') claim 1 results

Result	Claim 1 results predicted	Claim 1 results achieved in period	Total to be achieved by project close
People in education / training following support	0	0	75
Unemployed people supported	0	0	300

The Youth Hub (trading as 'The Platform') claim 2 results expected

Result	Claim 2 results predicted	Claim 2 results achieved in period	Total to be achieved by project close
People in education / training following support	25	16	75
Unemployed people supported	120	109	300
People in to work following support	0	12	0

Below: Therese Coffey (Secretary of State for Work & Pensions) cutting the ribbon at the formal launch.





4.2.3 Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalyst

The nature of the project, running a single cohort over multiple months, means delivery involving beneficiaries is not expected to start until March 2022. The first quarter has seen:

- The commencement of project planning for resource allocation and mobilisation.
- Initialising recruitment activity for the roles which will support the Project Manager (enabling delivery and administrative support).

Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalyst claim 1 results

Result	Claim 1 results predicted	Claim 1 results achieved in period	Total to be achieved by project close
Innovation plans formed & enacted (commitment secured)	0	0	15
Organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support	0	0	15
Small businesses engaged (0-49 employees)	0	0	7
Medium sized businesses engaged (50-249 employees)	0	0	3
Large businesses engaged (250+ employees)	0	0	2
Public organisations participating	0	0	2
Voluntary sector organisations participating	0	0	1

Piloting Place-Based Innovation Catalyst claim 2 results expected

Result	Claim 2 results predicted	Claim 2 results achieved in period	Total to be achieved by project close
Innovation plans formed & enacted (commitment secured)	0	0	15
Organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support	0	5	15
Small businesses engaged (0-49 employees)	0	2	7
Medium sized businesses engaged (50-249 employees)	0	0	3
Large businesses engaged (250+ employees)	0	1	2
Public organisations participating	0	2	2
Voluntary sector organisations participating	0	0	1



4.2.4 The role of Digital Museums and Archives in culture-led regeneration

The Blackpool component of the "Digital Museums and Archives Feasibility Project" proceeds on track with regard to the three (rescheduled) work packages. Activity in the quarter included:

- Getting the project website 'up and running'.
- Scoping of suitable case study sites (from a review of all suitable / eligible 'Museums' and 'Archives', including galleries and libraries) has been undertaken.
- Detailed scoping of suitable 'Digital Technology Service Providers' (the connections to museums & archives the feasibility project is aiming to strengthen).

The role of Digital Museums and Archives in culture-led regeneration claim 1 results expected

Result	Claim 1 results predicted	Claim 1 results achieved in period	Total to be achieved by project close
Innovation plans formed & enacted (commitment secured)	0	0	5
Organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support	0	0	5
Small businesses engaged (0-49 employees)	0	0	5
Medium sized businesses engaged (50-249 employees)	0	0	3
Large businesses engaged (250+ employees)	0	0	2
Public organisations participating	0	0	5
Private organisations participating	0	0	3
Voluntary sector organisations participating	0	0	2
Permanent part-time jobs created in businesses as a result of support	0	0	3

The role of Digital Museums and Archives in culture-led regeneration claim 2 results expected

Not yet known.



#### 4.3 Contracts

Legal documents for all 4 schemes are fully engrossed and in place.

#### 4.4 UK Community Renewal Fund Extension

On the 23 March the Council received a letter from the Government CRF Delivery team noting how they had received a growing number of requests from Lead Authorities and projects asking whether it is possible to extend UK Community Renewal Fund activity beyond the current end date of 30 June 2022. Projects have highlighted various reasons for delays put predominantly delivery on the ground has been slower due to the impact of COVID-19, this was compounded by the rise of Omicron and associated restrictions over the Winter.

To ensure UK Community Renewal Fund projects can deliver the outputs and outcomes Government Ministers have agreed to extend activity up to 31 December 2022. Lead Authorities were asked to discuss with projects to determine which projects want to extend activity and to when with a response due back to government with mid-term review reports which are due back by the 31 March. All 4 CRF schemes requested an extension to the end of September 2022 to ensure all project spend and outcomes are achieved. This request was accepted by government in a letter received on the 29th April.

Accepting the extension means the final claim and project evaluation report submissions now have a deadline of 31 January 2023. There will be no further extensions.

#### 4.5 Programme Reporting to DLUHC

On the 3rd February, a request was received from DLUHC to provide a CRF Interim Monitoring Report by the 31 March 2022. The Report was required to cover individual Projects spend up to the end of February 2022. This was submitted successfully on the 30 March 2022 with approval of the Section 151 officer.

Consequent to the programme extension to 31 December 2022, the final grant claim submission date will also change from 31 August 2022 to 31 January 2023.

Revised reporting schedules are to be agreed between CRF and the Council subsequent to our acceptance of the extension offer. We now await the associated correspondence.