



UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

Introduction

Kent County Council is seeking bids from organisations wishing to deliver activity as part of the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Before starting work on a bid, please read:

- the UK Community Renewal Fund **Prospectus**
- the UK Community Fund **Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers**
- the UK Community Renewal **Assessment Process**

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 and activity must end by 31 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.

Kent County Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government.

As a lead authority, Kent County Council is responsible for:

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

The UK Government will make the decision to award funding to successful projects.

Full details of the role of lead authorities can be found [here](#).

Who can apply?

Legally constituted organisations that can receive public funds can apply for UK Community Renewal Funds. Individuals cannot apply.

Project applicants could include, but are not limited to: private, charitable, voluntary, and community sector organisations/consortiums, universities, colleges, and local authorities.

Full details on who can apply are available in the [technical note for project applicants and deliverers](#).

What type of bids are we looking for?

Investment Priorities

Projects must deliver activity that is in line with the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus and align with **one or more** 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.

Projects should also be able to demonstrate the extent of contribution to net-zero carbon objectives or wider environmental considerations. *(This is not applicable to interventions focused on supporting people into employment).*

The UK Government gives examples of the types of bids they may support in the Prospectus, which is available [here](#).

Bid value and funding type

The UK Government anticipates supporting a range of projects by investment priority and size, but applicants are encouraged to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects (**£500,000+**) where this is possible.

The maximum project bid value is £3,000,000.

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.

Priority Places

To ensure the UK Community Renewal Fund funding reaches the most in need, the UK Government has identified 100 priority places for investment based on an index of economic resilience across Great Britain.

In Kent, the UK Government has designated these four districts as priority places:

- Canterbury
- Gravesham
- Swale
- Thanet

The Government will prioritise bids that target the top 100 places, however bids targeting other places can be submitted.

Kent County Council will submit one shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3m per place (i.e. district).

Applicants may choose for their proposed project to operate:

- Within one district area,
- Across multiple district areas,
- Across the whole of Kent, or
- Across Kent and Medway.

The UK Government is interested in bids built on local insight and knowledge, so bids across the wider South East can be submitted, but are not encouraged.

If the bid solely focuses on Medway, please submit your bid to Medway Council (details at www.medway.gov.uk).

Applicants should note that high-quality projects, where 51%+ of spend is within priority places, will be eligible for inclusion in the highest prioritisation band in the Government's stage 3 assessment.

Local Priorities

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

Kent County Council seeks bids that demonstrate alignment with local strategic plans and do not duplicate or conflict with other national or local provision. Details of local strategic plans and local provision are available at www.kent.gov.uk and via the local district council websites.

How Bids Will be Assessed

A UK-wide competitive bidding process will determine the award of the UK Community Renewal Funding by the UK Government.

There is no guarantee from the UK Government that each place will receive funding.

Stages of assessment

Bids should be submitted to Kent County Council no later than 9am on **4th May 2021**, but preferably sooner if possible.

Kent County Council will submit one shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3m per place (i.e. district) to the UK Government on 18th June 2021.

As the value of bids is expected to exceed this £3m per place cap, Kent County Council will assess all bids between 4th May to 18th June 2021. Kent County Council will consult other local stakeholders (without a conflict of interest) to ascertain evidence of local support during the assessment and prioritisation process.

Kent County Council will shortlist those eligible bids that most strongly demonstrate a good contribution to the UK Community Renewal Fund assessment criteria.

The UK Government will assess all bids submitted by lead authorities across the UK, against the criteria set out in the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus from 18th June onwards.

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

Kent County Council will then enter into a funding agreement with any successful bidders.

Successful bidders will be asked to commence their projects quickly. The projects must have completed all activity and claimed all spend by 31 March 2022.

Assessment Criteria

Bids will be assessed against the UK Government's Assessment Criteria, which are available [here](#). **Please read this document**, which specifies the:

- Gateway Criteria
- Strategic Fit Criteria
- The Deliverability, Effectiveness and Efficiency Criteria, and
- How project bids will be banded.

Due Diligence Check

In order to ensure that projects agreed by the Secretary of State can move forward quickly, a due diligence check will be undertaken by Kent County Council.

Kent County Council must be satisfied that the applicant is genuine, can legally receive public funds, and has the financial standing and sufficient capacity to deliver the proposed activity.

A credit check will be undertaken on applicants from the private, charitable, voluntary, and community sector. By submitting a bid, applicants are providing authorisation for this credit check.

Submitting a Bid

- All applicants must submit a UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form.
- Applicants from the private, charitable, voluntary and community sector must also submit a copy of the last three years of accounts.

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.**

The application form should not include attachments or links to websites. The assessment of bids will be based on the information provided in the application form only.

Bids must be submitted to Kent County Council using this email address:
UKCommunityRenewalFund@kent.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by no later than **9am on Tuesday 4th May 2021**. Early submission of bids is encouraged.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A key objective of the UK Community Renewal Fund is to try new ways of delivering activity to businesses and people. It is important that projects are robustly evaluated and that learning is shared with others.

At least 1-2% of any bid's value should be dedicated to monitoring and evaluation.

Kent County Council will invite successful applicants to share their transferable learning via a UK CRF evaluation conference to be held in spring 2022.

Lead authority cost incurred in managing fund awards

A flat rate of 2% of the value of the UK Community Renewal Fund spent by each project will be used by Kent County Council for the costs incurred in managing fund awards.

Project applicants should factor this into their application.

Summary of Key Dates

Activity	Deadline / Dates
Workshops on the UK Community Renewal Fund – open to all bidders to attend. (Content of both workshops is the same).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 6th April 2021 between 10.30am and 12.30pm• Thursday 8th April 2021 between 2.00pm and 4.00pm
Project applicants to email their application form (and last three years of accounts if from the private, charitable, voluntary and community sector) to UKCommunityRenewalFund@kent.gov.uk	By no later than 9am on Tuesday 4th May 2021 .
Project applicants informed by Kent County Council if their bid has been shortlisted and sent to the UK Government.	By no later than noon on Friday 18th June 2021 .
UK Government announces which projects will be awarded funding.	Late July 2021 onwards
Project Delivery, Spend, Evaluation.	Late July 2021 onwards to 31 st March 2022.