

Notice of a public

Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning

To: Councillor Smalley and Waller (Executive Member)

Date: Tuesday, 15 June 2021

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: The George Hudson Board Room - 1st Floor West Offices (F045)

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in consultation with the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Communities (for agenda item 4, UK Community Renewal Fund – York Priority List)

Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item on this agenda, notice must be given to Democracy Support Group by: **4:00 pm on Thursday 17 June 2021.**

Any called in items will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of item on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00pm on Friday 11 June 2021.**

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Members are asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests
- any prejudicial interests or
- any disclosable pecuniary interests

which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

2. **Minutes**

(Pages 1 - 6)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27 April 2021.

3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines have changed to 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is 5:00pm on Friday 11 June 2021.

To register to speak please visit

www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill out an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact the relevant Democracy Officer, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, and to ensure the safety of all attendees at the meeting, the number of public participants may be restricted at this meeting. However, we continue to welcome public participation and will facilitate as many public participants as possible. For further information, please contact the Democracy Officer on the details at the foot of the agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this public meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The public meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

During coronavirus, we've made some changes to how we're running council meetings. See our coronavirus updates (www.york.gov.uk/COVIDDemocracy) for more information on meetings and decisions.

4. UK Community Renewal Fund – York Priority list (Pages 7 - 42)

This report provides the Executive Members with details on the York priority list of projects for the City of York Council's application to the UK Community Renewal Fund, which if approved will be submitted to HM Government.

5. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer

Joseph Kennally

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This information can be provided in your own language.

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 (01904) 551550

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above

Coronavirus protocols for attending Committee Meetings at West Offices

If you are attending a meeting in West Offices, you must observe the following protocols.

Windows must remain open within the meeting room to maintain good ventilation.

Furniture must not be moved from the designated safe layout.

If you're displaying possible coronavirus symptoms (or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms), you must follow government self-isolation guidance and must NOT attend your meeting at West Offices.

Testing

The Council encourages regular testing of all Officers and Members and also any members of the public in attendance at a Committee Meeting. Any members of the public attending a meeting are advised to take a test within 24 hours of attending a meeting, the result of the test should be negative, in order to attend.

Test kits can be obtained by clicking on either link: [Find where to get rapid lateral flow tests - NHS \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus-test-kits/), or, [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests).

Alternatively, if you call 119 between the hours of 7am and 11pm, you can order a testing kit over the telephone.

Guidelines for attending Meetings at West Offices

You must:

- Not arrive more than 10 minutes early
- Wear a face covering when entering the building and at all times, except when addressing the Committee (i.e. public speaking, Officer responding to a question, Member speaking during to the Committee)
- If you do have cause to remove your face covering to speak, please ensure that you use hand sanitiser or wash your hands before replacing your face covering
- Visitors to enter West Offices by the customer entrance and Councillors to enter using the staff entrance only.
- Ensure your ID / visitors pass is clearly visible at all times
- Use the touchless hand sanitiser units on entry and exit to the building and within the Meeting room.
- Keep to the left and adhere to social distancing where possible when using staircases and walkways, giving way on the staircase landings
- You must sit at the dedicated spaces around the table and if screens are in place do not move them or lean around them.
- Bring your own drink if required
- Maintain social distancing of 2 metres within toilet areas and remain vigilant for other occupants
- Only use the designated toilets next to the Meeting room

Please note: If you intentionally, or repeatedly, breach any of the social distancing measures, or hygiene instructions, you will be asked to leave the building. The Meeting will not start, or may be paused should anyone remove their face covering, or not replace it after speaking.

Developing symptoms whilst in West Offices

If you develop coronavirus symptoms during a Meeting, you should:

- make your way home immediately
- avoid the use of public transport where possible

- self-isolate for 10 days

You should also:

- Advise the Meeting organiser so they can arrange to assess and carry out additional cleaning
- Continue to observe social distancing
- Do not remain in the building any longer than necessary
- Do not visit any other areas of the building before you leave

If you receive a positive test result, or if you develop any symptoms before the meeting is due to take place, **you must not attend the meeting.**

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning
Date	27 April 2021
Present	Councillor Waller (Executive Member)

16. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Member was asked to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests or any prejudicial or discloseable pecuniary interest that he might have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

17. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Executive Member at a later date

18. Public Participation

It was reported that there were no registered speakers under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

19. Engagement Strategy – Economic Strategy, Skills Plan and My City Centre

The Executive Member considered a report which set out proposals for engagement with businesses, residents and partners to inform the development of a new Economic Strategy and Skills Plan for York.

During discussion of the item, officers:

- Thanked the business community for their help and support in co-ordinating York's economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Emphasised the Engagement Strategy's joined up approach in which data was collected from multiple access points in order to create a more complete picture of the city.
- Explained the different stages of the Engagement Strategy which were laid out in the report.
- Stated that the My City Centre project engagement begun last year before the Covid-19 pandemic caused a pause and will begin again in May with a more specific focus on certain communities, especially those usually underrepresented.
- Clarified, regarding concern that there was a lack of engagement with the Bishophill area, that the map within Annex 5 to the report was a representation of people's opinions on various areas of the city, and not a representation of the location of the respondents.

The Executive Member thanked officers for their reports and stated that:

- Care must be taken to join the consultations together to prevent the public being asked multiple times about similar issues.
- It should be ensured that residents who were not on social media were represented in the data collected.
- Officers should demonstrate that underrepresented groups which had not previously been well engaged with the Council, were being consulted, especially microbusinesses and young people.

Resolved:

- (i) That the plans for public engagement on York's economy set out in Annexes 1 and 3 be approved.

Reason: To support economic recovery and growth and the development of a new economic strategy and skills plan.

- (ii) That the recommencement of the My City Centre project from May 2021 be approved.

Reason: To generate a strategic vision for the City Centre through public engagement, to respond to place-based challenges and opportunities.

- (iii) That the revised My City Centre project scope and thematic approach in response to the changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic be approved.

Reason: To ensure that the project responds to the pandemic's impacts and prevailing (updated) challenges and opportunities.

- (iv) That the amended My City Centre project engagement plan set out at Annex 4, which responds to changes brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic be approved.

Reason: To ensure effective and inclusive engagement, particularly during the period where some form of lockdown will still exist.

- (v) That the budget proposals set out in Annex 3 be approved.

Reason: To ensure that project activity is resourced appropriately to delivery project outcomes.

- (vi) That regular updates on the Engagement Strategy – Economic Strategy, Skills Plan and My City Centre work be received at future Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning Decision Sessions.

Reason: To allow the Executive Member to remain informed of the progress of the Engagement Strategy.

20. **Skills Strategy Update**

The Executive Member considered a report which provided an update on the work of the city's Skills and Employment Board in developing a 10-year skills strategy.

During discussion of the item, officers:

- Highlighted the 4 priority projects detailed in the report, which were focused around setting foundations for approved partnerships.
- Identified 2 of these priority projects as bases for potential UK Community Renewal Fund bids, and stated that partners were seeking to bring those bids forward.

- Explained that the voice of the employer was key in influencing the work of the Skills and Employment Board.
- Expressed their gratitude towards stakeholders and elected members for their time and support.

The Executive Member stated that:

- He wished for another joint session of the Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee and the Children, Education and Community Policy and Scrutiny Committee to feed into the work of the Skills and Employment Board.
- It was important that partnership groups not represented on the Skills and Employment Board were included.
- He was grateful to officers and partners for their work during this unprecedented time.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That preparations be made for a further joint meeting of Children, Education and Community Policy and Scrutiny Committee and Economy and Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee to aid in the development of the plan.

Reason: To support the work of the partnership to develop a 10-year Skills Strategy for York.

21. Apprenticeships Update

The Executive Member considered a report which provided an update on apprenticeship activity in York in the first quarter of 2021.

During discussion of the item, officers:

- Stated that the profile of the Apprenticeships Hub had been raised over the past few months due to engagement events across social media and virtual events.
- Explained that educational disruption during the Covid-19 pandemic had caused more young people to opt to remain in education post-16, but it was important that they were aware and informed of all routes open to them, including apprenticeships.

- Gave notice that York's Apprenticeship Levy Transfer process was up and running.
- Informed the Executive Member that there had been improvements in the internal usage of apprenticeships at the City of York Council, and that their usefulness as a means to fill vacancies and upskill existing staff was increasingly understood.

The Executive Member:

- Stated that he appreciated the work around the Apprenticeship Levy and had written to the Department of Education to request more flexibility on its utilisation.
- Thanked officers for their work in a time of difficult financial circumstances brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That a 6-monthly update be received at a future Decision Session - Executive Member for Economy and Strategic Planning.

Reason: To continue to encourage the creation of apprenticeship opportunities in York, by supporting local businesses to access available funding and to support routes to employment for local residents.

22. The Housing, Communities And Local Government Committee Inquiry into Permitted Development Rights

The Executive Member considered a report which provided him with information on the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee's inquiry into Permitted Development Rights (PDR), which is inviting submissions on PDR related issues. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 30 April 2021.

During discussion of the item, officers:

- Explained that there were 8 main questions asked by the inquiry, which focused on issues such as the changing usage of property from office to residential and the effect it

has had on the quality and quantity of new housing, including affordable and social housing.

- Stated that in the view of the City of York Council, the Government's changes have had a negative impact, due to the fact that Permitted Development Rights do not allow the Council to request any form of contribution for affordable housing and that it had allowed a significant number of units to be proceed without planning permission.

The Executive Member thanked officers for their report and stated that he would like more information on what steps the Council was taking to aid in the changing usage of retail space in the city centre, from large floor plate shops to smaller, sub-divided units, including what the Council can aid in the regeneration process.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the submission of evidence to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry into Permitted Development Rights be delegated to the Director of Environment, Transport and Planning.

Reason: To enable the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee to receive the City of York Council's submissions to the Inquiry into Permitted Development Rights.

CLLR A WALLER, Executive Member
[The meeting started at 11.00 am and finished at 11.37 am].



**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Economy and Strategic Planning in
consultation with the Executive Member for
Culture, Leisure and Communities**

15 June 2021

Report of the Chief Financial Officer

UK Community Renewal Fund – York Priority Projects

Summary

1. In the Budget 2021, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the creation of the UK Community Renewal Fund, including a list of 100 priority areas for the fund, which did not include York. CYC Executive agreed on April 22 2021 to run a call for applications to the UK Community Renewal Fund, following the process set out in Annex A.
2. To enable a call for proposals, a York prospectus was developed (see Annex B) and published on the Council website and the call was publicised through the local media. The call closed on 16 May 2021 and a total of 15 bids were received.
3. The Head of Economic Growth convened an assessment panel comprising himself, the Head of Corporate Policy and City Partnerships and York & North Yorkshire LEP's Head of Strategy. The panel assessed all applications using the Government's published assessment criteria (see Annex C) and the documents and priorities as set out in the York prospectus. Due diligence on all applicants was undertaken by CYC finance and audit staff to provide assurance CYC would be able to enter into contract should their applications be approved.
4. Following this assessment process, 9 projects with a total value of £1.93m passed through the gateway criteria and were scored sufficiently highly in terms of both strategic fit and deliverability to be suitable for inclusion on York's priority list. 5 are primarily under the "investment for business" priority, 2 under "investment in communities and place", and one each under "investment in skills" and "supporting people into employment".

5. While it is highly unlikely that Government will approve this quantum of bids for York, it has been a very a useful exercise in gathering a range of proposals from partners which provide a pipeline of projects for any future funding calls from government. All applicants are thanked for the time and resources they have applied to making proposals.

Recommendations

6. The Executive Members are asked to:

- 1) Approve the York priority list of projects and its submission to Government

Reason: To support the York economy and community renewal

- 2) Note the time and resources that applicants have applied to making proposals and thank them for their commitment to community renewal in York.

Reason: To support the York economy and community renewal

Background

7. Following Executive's 22 April 2021 decision to approve and implement the process set out in Annex A, a call for proposals was launched on 23 April 2021 with a deadline for submissions of 16 May 2021. The York prospectus which gave guidance for proposals and set out our local strategic priorities is provided at Annex B.
8. Government was clear that the fund provided is for revenue projects with only a small amount of capital investment available, up to a maximum of 10%. Projects which are primarily concerned with capital works, such as the adaptation of buildings of creation of public realm are not eligible for funding.
9. In addition to the published criteria, Government has provided an assessment framework for UK CRF bids (see Annex C) which includes four key elements:
 - A Gateway assessment to ensure that the following basic criteria are met:
 - i. Projects must be complete by 31 March 2022

- ii. Projects must respond to the priorities set out in the prospectus and not duplicate local or national provision
 - iii. Applicant/delivery body is legally constituted and able to receive public funds
 - iv. Project complies with to State Aid/subsidy control requirements
- An assessment of strategic fit against the national and local priorities set out in the prospectus
 - An assessment of deliverability to ensure that
 - i. Completion of the project is on or before 31 March 2022 with realistic milestones identified
 - ii. A full funding package, or realistic plans to secure any match funding, is in place
 - iii. There is a realistic timeline for all internal and external approvals needed to enable the project to proceed
 - iv. CYC is able to enter swiftly into contract with the applicant to deliver the outcomes and outputs that have been identified
 - v. Requirements around branding, evaluation and monitoring can be met
 - Due diligence shows that the applicant is legally constituted, able to receive public funds and of sufficient standing to provide a low risk to CYC, who would ultimately be liable should the project fail.
10. Following selection of York priority projects for submission to Government, MHCLG will undertake its own assessment process, and Ministers will then select a range of projects to support. The selection process is set out on pages 9 and 10 of Annex B, and it is clear that, for non-priority places such as York, only those projects that have a combined strategic fit and deliverability score above 80% will have any chance of being supported. York projects would be in Band B as described in the Annex, and this document also makes it clear that there is no minimum allocation per place, and it is thus entirely possible that no York bids will be selected.
11. Should any York bids be selected, the responsibility for contracting and assuring delivery would fall to City of York Council. We would need to

move swiftly to put formal funding agreements into place and establish a process for monitoring progress and spend. The UKCRF Technical Note for Lead Authorities states that:

“As the accountable bodies for UK Community Renewal Fund expenditure Lead Authorities are responsible for establishing a funding agreement with each local project deliverer. Each project (including projects delivered solely or jointly by the Lead Authority) must be governed by a funding agreement. It is for the Lead Authority to determine the terms of its agreement with project deliverers but Lead Authorities must ensure the agreement allows it to discharge its responsibilities under the funding agreement that will have been agreed between the Lead Authority and the Secretary of State.

Lead Authorities will be liable for any expenditure the Secretary of State determines to be ineligible for UK Community Renewal Fund support. Ineligible expenditure will be recovered from the Local Authority. The Secretary of State will have no contractual relationship with the project deliverer and will not seek to recover funds from them.”

12. There is thus a clear need to ensure that CYC has full confidence that all projects put forward on the Priority List can be delivered as set out, and include only spend which is eligible. There would also be a further call on CYC resources should any projects be selected by Government, firstly to draw up a legally-enforceable funding agreement for each project, and subsequently to manage delivery and financial claims. There is scope to include costs of 2% of each approved project to support such costs.
13. In light of the discussion above of the likelihood or not of York projects being selected, it is not proposed to develop a model funding agreement at this stage. The costs of such an exercise would only be justified should York projects be approved. In priority places, capacity funding of £20k was provided by Government, and this will have been used by many to produce such documents. Should York be successful in obtaining funding, we propose to work closely with our colleagues in North and West Yorkshire to build on documentation produced through their capacity funding.

Assessment of York bids

14. A total of 15 bids were received prior to the published deadline. Three of these bids failed to pass the gateway criteria as they would not be

complete by 31 March 2022 or were primarily capital projects. One bid was incomplete and thus also failed at gateway stage.

15. Assessment of applications was undertaken by a team comprising the Head of Economic Growth, Head of Corporate Policy and City Partnerships and YNY LEP Head of Strategy. The panel scored all projects which passed the gateway assessment using the framework provided by Government.

16. As discussed in the paper considered by Executive (Annex A:

For proposals from non-priority areas such as York, the key gateway issue will be that projects would need to be appraised at a minimum of 80% against strategic fit and deliverability. Government will only consider projects in York that are appraised at 80% or above, and will be monitoring local scoring to ensure that scores are realistic.

There is a clear need to ensure that any projects which are submitted as a result of the call for proposals are sufficiently developed to ensure that they have both strong strategic fit and are also clearly deliverable in the 6 month window towards the end of 2021/22.

17. In assessing projects and selecting which to put forward for the priority list, the panel were mindful of the advice summarised above. While we received 15 bids, all of which had merit and responded to the published priorities, it was important that we undertook a thorough assessment against the criteria and were thorough in our assessment of deliverability. The financial and reputational risks if selected projects fail to deliver would sit with City of York Council.

18. To provide some scope for discrepancy between local and national scoring and to allow for potential improvement of proposals post-selection, a threshold of 70% average score across strategic fit and deliverability was used to select projects for the Priority list.

19. The 9 projects meeting the required threshold were as follows:

Applicant	Project	Value (£)
University of York	City Storylab	134,927
Solv Co-operative	Solv Startup Growth Programs for York	100,000
Your Consortium	Step Change York	182,541

York Archaeological Trust	Archaeology on Prescription	119,728
City of York Council	Local Area Energy Planning in York	130,000
Bosch plc	Bosch Startup Harbour Programme	503,466
University of York	Street Life	460,554
Welcome to Yorkshire	Filmed in Yorkshire	111,952
Biorenewables Development Centre	York Bioeconomy Pilot	200,000
	TOTAL VALUE	1,943,168

Consultation

20. Prior to the launch of the call for proposals, consultations were held with York's business networks, the local Universities, members of the York Skills Board and representatives from the third sector.

Council Plan

21. CRF addresses the following outcomes from the Council Plan:

- Good health and wellbeing;
- Well-paid jobs and an inclusive economy;
- A greener and cleaner city;
- Safe communities and culture for all

Implications

- **Financial** – no new financial commitments as the CRF is entirely funded by Government.
- **Human Resources (HR)** – no implications;
- **One Planet Council / Equalities** – as this report relates only to the to submission of a priority list to Government, there are no direct equalities impacts, however each application includes an assessment of the potential impacts, and a full EIA will be completed for any successful bids as part of the contracting process;

- **Legal** – no implications arising from submission of the Priority list, but there will be implications should any projects be selected;
- **Crime and Disorder** – no implications;
- **Information Technology (IT)** – no implications;
- **Property** – no direct implications.

Risk Management

22. Should any York projects be selected by Government, there will be financial risks at delivery stage as discussed above. These risks will be mitigated through the establishment of detailed funding agreements with grant recipients and by establishing a detailed project and contract management approach funded by the 2% contribution to CYC costs that would be available.

Contact Details

Author:

Simon Brereton
Head of Economic Growth

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Debbie Mitchell
Chief Finance Officer

Report **Date:** 7th June 2021
Approved

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Annexes

Annex A: UK Community Renewal Fund note for CYC Executive

Annex B: UK Community Renewal Fund York Prospectus

Annex C: UK CRF Assessment Criteria

List of Abbreviations Used in this Report

CRF – UK Community Renewal Fund

Annex A

UK Community Renewal Fund – see [prospectus](#)

Background

This £220m fund is a one year pilot for new UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will replace EU structural funds and is expected to be a £1.5bn per annum fund available from 2023 onwards. The pilot explores the themes for projects, with a focus on innovation in delivery, and the process for application, which is through Mayoral Combined Authorities, or Local Authorities where they don't exist. A maximum of £3m per area is available, and this is expected to be spent by 31 March 2022, with final funding decisions being made by Government from July onwards.

The fund is open to every area, but 100 have been given priority status with £20,000 of capacity building money to support the local process of calls for projects. Should all 100 priority areas submit lists of £3m of projects, the fund would be oversubscribed by £80m. The 268 non-priority places, such as York, that are also eligible to bid are expected to deliver this process without the additional funding. It is not an option to simply submit Local Authority bids – the process demands a call for projects, appraisal of the responses to calls, and then the development and agreement of a priority list for submission.

The themes for projects will be familiar to anyone with experience in European Structural Investment Funds such as ERDF and ESF. The prospectus is clear that Government is looking, however, for innovation in delivery. The themes are:

- Investment in skills
- Investment for local business
- Investment in communities and place
- Supporting people into employment

For each theme, the prospectus explores a wide range of possible project themes, stressing the desire for the pilot to explore innovative approaches to delivery. 90% of the funding is for revenue projects, and it is important to note once again that all funding received must be spent by the end of March 2022.

Process

The prospectus provides a clear timeline for delivery of local calls for projects through Mayoral Combined Authorities, or Local Authorities where they don't exist. In brief, this timeline is:

- March 2021: Lead authorities invite project proposals from a range of local applicants, including voluntary and community sector organisations and local education providers including universities
- June 2021: Lead authorities should then appraise these projects and produce a shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3 million per place for submission to UK government.

- July onwards: The UK government will select projects in line with the selection criteria
- all funding to be spent by 31 March 2022

As discussed above, Priority areas have been provided with £20,000 of capacity building funding. This is to support the bidding process and then local contracting with approved projects and monitoring and evaluation. The full scope of the Lead Authority role is as follows:

- Invite bids from a range of project applicants, including but not limited to universities, voluntary and community sector organisations, and umbrella business groups. Any legally constituted organisation delivering an appropriate service should feel able to prepare a proposal.
- Undertake constructive engagement with local partners, including but not limited to lower tier local authorities and elected representatives, and other public, private and third sector organisations.
- Collaborate with other lead authorities or partners across the UK where relevant – for example to promote cross-border project opportunities that address needs in common or achieve efficient delivery scale.
- Appraise and prioritise a shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3 million per place, from which the UK government will select projects.
- Submit shortlist to UK government who will assess the proposals and select projects based on the published criteria.
- Issue grant agreements to successful bidders once funding has been agreed by UK government, and then undertake monitoring and assurance activity.

The challenge for us in York will be to deliver this process as we do not have spare resource to do so. With no financial resource to purchase additional capacity, the only option is to divert existing staff from their current work into a small project team, launch a call for projects, receive and appraise bids, develop into a priority list, get sign-off for that list, and submit to government. It is proposed that the Head of Economic Growth leads a small team to run this process.

Agreement of a priority list for submission would be through a specially convened Executive Member decision session in early June.

The timeline for a York UKCRF process would be as follows:

22 Apr	Executive to agree details for call for proposals (as set out in this paper): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum project value ▪ Priority themes ▪ Strategic priorities ▪ Deadlines
23 Apr	Launch call for proposals through CYC website
16 May	End of call for proposals
17-31 May	Appraise projects & develop York priority list

w/c 8 June Priority list considered at specially convened Executive Member Decision Session (Cllr Waller with Cllr Smalley)

18 June Deadline for submission to Government

Selection Criteria

For proposals from non-priority areas such as York, the key gateway issue will be that projects would need to be appraised at a minimum of 80% against strategic fit and deliverability. Government will only consider projects in York that are appraised at 80% or above, and will be monitoring local scoring to ensure that scores are realistic.

There is a clear need to ensure that any projects which are submitted as a result of the call for proposals are sufficiently developed to ensure that they have both strong strategic fit and are also clearly deliverable in the 6 month window towards the end of 2021/22.

Strategic Fit will be scored against the following:

1. Level of contribution to local needs articulated in relevant local plans and with evidence of local support. Projects will be appraised against:
 - York and North Yorkshire Devolution Proposal
 - York and North Yorkshire Local Industrial Strategy
 - York Recovery Plan – Business Support and Skills & Employment 1 year plans (latter as developed by Skills & Employment Board and approved by Cllr Waller at March 2021 Decision Session)
2. Level of contribution to a national investment priority
 - Investment in skills
 - Investment for business
 - Investment in communities and place
 - Supporting people into employment
3. The extent of contribution to net zero objectives, as set out at section 3.1.1 of the prospectus, or wider environmental considerations (not applicable to employment support interventions)
4. The extent to which the project can inform the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through transferable learning or opportunity to scale up for local partners and UK government.
5. The extent to which the project demonstrates innovation in service delivery.

Deliverability will be scored against:

1. That it can be delivered as proposed by March 2022 with realistic milestones identified.
2. Project risks have been identified and are adequately mitigated, including project-level management controls.
3. The applicant sets out an efficient mode of delivery, taking account of the level of innovation proposed and will operate at an appropriate scale. This shall include an assessment of value for money taking account of:
 - a. the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought
 - b. the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact (not applicable to employment interventions).
4. That the project would not proceed without funding or could only be delivered on a smaller scale.
5. An effective monitoring and evaluation strategy has been identified for the project.

Project size:

While there is no published minimum project size, Government have indicated that they are expecting **bids of at least £100k**, and we will treat this as the minimum size for York projects, given our low priority status. Applicants could put forward several linked projects as a single programme, but that will need to be submitted on a single form with consolidated finances, outputs and outcomes, and will be appraised as a single entity. Regional bids would be possible, but would need to be appraised locally against York priorities. A regional bid above the £100k threshold could include York elements below that level and be considered as part of the York priority list.

Investment Themes

- **Investment in skills** Bids may include, but are not limited to interventions that address:
 - *Work-based training* – for example addressing specific local need from local employers for on-the-job training to support local growth, such as taking on trainee builders for a new infrastructure project.
 - *Retraining, upskilling or reskilling members of the workforce* – for example helping organisations to identify and understand skills gaps or provide access to financial support for relevant training where the local workforce may require new skills to meet the needs of a local employer or sector and support local economic transitions.
 - *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.

For York, skills projects would naturally flow from the 1 year skills plan prepared by the Skills Board and to be considered by Cllr Waller at his March 2021 Decision Session. There is much overlap with YNY priorities.

- **Investment for local business** Bids may include, but are not limited to, interventions that address:
 - *Supporting entrepreneurs and helping businesses with potential to create more job opportunities for current employees or take on new employees* – for example helping businesses to access the specialist support they need such as investor readiness schemes and private sector experts like experienced non-executives.
 - *Encouraging businesses to develop their innovation potential* – for example facilitating small businesses grow and to develop new and improved products and services by promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing, including small-scale knowledge transfer activity. This may include nurturing further join up between higher education institutions and small businesses, capitalising on research outcomes and building innovation capacity through development of plans for local innovation facilities and opportunities such as innovation centres and incubation services.
 - *Supporting decarbonisation measures* – for example encouraging local businesses and organisations to reduce greenhouse gases through investment in new technology or energy efficiency measures that can have bottom line benefits and improve business productivity.

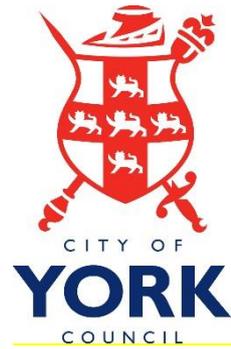
For York, business support priorities in the current year were set out in the 1 year business support plan developed as part of our Covid response.

- **Investment in communities and place**
 - *Feasibility studies for delivering net-zero and local energy projects* – for example assessing opportunity and viability of green projects that contribute towards our green agenda or net-zero objectives such as installing electric vehicle charging points and coastal investment projects. This may include investing in feasibility studies to assess, for example, scheduling considerations, legal, economic and technical factors for projects that could support local decarbonisation where this brings social or economic benefits to local people and promoting environmentally conscious or collaborative local solutions such as clean energy projects.
 - *Exploring opportunity for promoting culture-led regeneration and community development* – for example investing in culture focused feasibility studies and community facilities to attract people to places, including city centres and rural and coastal towns. This may include research for projects that could generate footfall to support other private-sector businesses, opportunities to improve efficiency and collaboration by joining up local public services to produce better local outcomes or investing in the preservation or enhancement of cultural and sporting

facilities such as museums, galleries, visitor attractions, pier restoration and heritage assets.

- *Improving green spaces and preserving important local assets* – for example enhancing natural assets, including green spaces in neighbourhoods and housing estates, to enhance quality of life to attract and retain talent, and attract tourism.
 - *Promoting rural connectivity* – for example developing opportunities for digital functionality and physical connectivity to help realise the full potential of rural businesses. This may include exploring proposed innovative ideas for enhancing accessibility and social, economic and cultural opportunities for rural communities, including rural and green infrastructure
- **Supporting people into employment**
 - *Supporting people to engage with local services which support them on their journey towards employment* – such as bringing together multi-agency teams to join up a variety of services around an individual to address the variety of barriers to employment they may face; or key-worker support to connect individuals with existing public or voluntary provision.
 - *Identifying and addressing any potential barriers these individuals may face in gaining employment or moving closer to the labour market* – such as the use of key-worker support to work with beneficiaries to identify barriers to employment; working with and connecting individuals to the most appropriate services throughout the employment journey.
 - *Raising aspirations, supporting individuals to access Plan for Jobs employment support, jobs and find sustainable employment* – such as providing holistic support to address the long-term barriers to employment including but not limited to: support for alcohol and drugs interventions, skills for life such as timekeeping, confidence building and, employability support, including work experience, CV writing or interview preparation.
 - *Supporting people to gain the basic skills they need to develop their potential for sustainable work* – such as English, Maths, Digital and English for Speakers of Other Languages skills and training courses. Other suitable provision could include support intended to develop communication, interpersonal and presentation skills.
 - *Testing what works in helping people move towards work* – such as testing new initiatives which support people along the employment journey to understand how different interventions, or targeting approaches, can maximise the effectiveness of employment programmes aimed at those furthest from the labour market

Again, the York 1 year skills and employment plan covers this theme, with a clear strategic framework in place to provide priorities, and there is overlap with broader YNY priorities.



UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

Introduction

City of York 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 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.

City of York Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, City of York 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. For City of York Council, projects should be of a minimum value of £100,000.

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.

Local Priorities

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

Our local priorities in the areas listed above are set out in our [Economic Recovery Strategy](#), [Business Support Plan](#) and [1 year Skills Plan](#), and in the [Devolution asks](#) and [Local Industrial Strategy](#) that we have developed with partners from across the York and North Yorkshire LEP area.

Geographic Coverage - projects should benefit the following places:

- York

How Bids Will be Assessed

As the lead authority City of York 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 City of York 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.

City of York Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders.

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 City of York Council using this email address:
economicgrowth@york.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by midnight on 16th May 2021.

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



UK Government

ANNEX C

UK Community Renewal Fund

Assessment Process

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March 2021

UK Community Renewal Fund - UK Government assessment process

1. The assessment process set out in this document will be used by UK Government to assess:
 - Shortlisted applications put forward by lead authorities in Great Britain.
 - All project applications in Northern Ireland.
2. Associated documents are available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk):
 - UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus,
 - Application Form,
 - Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers and
 - Technical Note for Lead Authorities.

ANNEX C

Great Britain

Stage 1. Gateway criteria

Criteria	Assessment
1. Project proposal will be delivered (including all expenditure incurred) by 31 March 2022.	<p style="text-align: center;">Pass/Fail</p> <p>Projects must pass all gateway criteria to be considered for selection.</p> <p>Failure to adequately demonstrate one or more of these criteria will result in project rejection.</p> <p><i>*Criteria 2-4 and 6 are assessed as Pass/Fail/Partial. Where the project could proceed with amendments, it will be considered to pass Gateway Criteria.</i></p>
2. Project proposal responds to a need identified in the prospectus.*	
3. Project proposal does not duplicate other national or local provision.*	
4. Project proposal does not conflict with national policy.*	
5. Project proposal will be delivered by a legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds.	
6. Project proposal will be delivered in line with subsidy control/State Aid requirements.*	
7. Project proposal will be delivered in accordance with branding requirements.	
8. Project proposal has been submitted by the lead authority. Bids submitted independently from the lead authority will not be accepted.	
9. The lead authority must also show they have led an open process by which organisations are invited to submit bids.	

Stage 2: Scoring

Criteria 1: Strategic fit		
Sub-criteria	Example evidence of meeting the criteria <i>This is non-exhaustive and other evidence may be provided and considered as part of the assessment</i>	Assessment
1. Level of contribution to local needs articulated in relevant local plans and with evidence of local support.	<p>As a minimum, projects will need to articulate how they demonstrate strategic fit as defined under 3.2 – 3.5 in the prospectus and reference local needs.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly address a priority intervention in a local plan – such as investing in a target sector or place, or • where there is clear support from local partners such as other local authorities or elected representatives. <p>Note - Lead Authorities will also provide an assessment of this criterion which UK Government will take into account.</p>	<p>Each sub-criteria is given a mark out of 5. These are summed with equal weighting.</p> <p>This is converted to a percentage score for the theme (e.g. a maximum mark of 25 would give a score of 100%).</p> <p>Projects that predominantly focus on priority areas must score a minimum of 50% to be shortlisted.</p> <p>Projects that do not predominantly focus on priority areas must score a minimum of 80% to be shortlisted.</p>
2. Level of contribution to an articulated investment priority set out at sections 3.2 to 3.5 in the prospectus	<p>As a minimum, projects will need to articulate: the priority groups they intend to support; the proposed project activities and the applicable interventions they propose to deliver under sections 3.2 -3.5 in the prospectus; and how the interventions will deliver and contribute to relevant fund outcomes.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on priority groups or interventions identified in the prospectus and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will deliver a significant and observable contribution to relevant fund outcomes (e.g. 100 people have moved into employment, including self-employment, following support). <p>Project Applicants should consider summarising the customer journey using a flow chart showing specific project activities; and/or provide a supporting logic model or theory of change which clearly demonstrates the links between the activities and inputs, outputs and outcomes.</p>	
<p>3. The extent of contribution to net zero objectives, as set out at section 3.1.1 of the prospectus, or wider environmental considerations (not applicable to employment support interventions)</p>	<p>As a minimum, bids should meet the clean growth principle and not conflict with the UK’s legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they actively support progress to net zero for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting and supporting innovative clean technology • supporting net zero skills and supply chains e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering carbon literacy and wider environmental consideration for skills sectors being supported; ○ Full carbon footprinting, supporting carbon and environmental impacts in key supply chains; ○ Community engagement & supporting local climate plans. 	
<p>4. The extent to which the project can inform the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through</p>	<p>As a minimum, projects should commit to project level evaluation and to work collaboratively with the UK government on programme level evaluation.</p>	

<p>transferable learning or opportunity to scale up for local partners and UK government.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approach has demonstrable application elsewhere, or • is trialling a response to an identified priority set out in section 3.2 to 3.5 of the prospectus. 	
<p>5. The extent to which the project demonstrates innovation in service delivery.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing new delivery approaches (for example, trialling new modes of delivery) • delivering integrated approaches across policy themes or • achieving collaboration across more than one place. 	

Criteria 2: Deliverability, effectiveness, and efficiency		
Sub-criteria	Example evidence of meeting the criteria <i>This is non-exhaustive and other evidence may be provided and considered as part of the assessment</i>	Assessment
<p>1. That it can be delivered as proposed by March 2022 with realistic milestones identified.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities, skills, capability, or capacity needed • a fully secured funding package (including match funding where relevant) or a clear and realistic plan to secure prior to project start • a good understanding of how the proposal is compliant with UK subsidy control regime (where relevant) • under Part 1 (Q1i), the Application sets out a realistic timetable which includes milestones for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Securing internal approvals for the project or any other funding 	<p>Each sub-criteria is given a mark out of 5. These are summed with equal weighting.</p> <p>This is converted to a percentage score for the theme (e.g. a maximum mark of 25 would give a score of 100%).</p>

ANNEX C

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing the project team ○ project launch and recruiting beneficiaries, ○ key points on the beneficiary journey ○ procurement for external services/suppliers 	<p>Projects that predominantly focus on priority areas must score a minimum of 50% to be shortlisted.</p>
<p>2. Project risks have been identified and are adequately mitigated, including project-level management controls.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● carefully considered and identified implementation and delivery risks ● there are corresponding and appropriate mitigations for key risks ● arrangements for managing and escalating risk are articulated including roles and responsibilities ● contingency plans are in place to manage risks, including project delays. 	<p>Projects that do not predominantly focus on priority areas must score a minimum of 80% to be shortlisted.</p>
<p>3. The applicant sets out an efficient mode of delivery, taking account of the level of innovation proposed and will operate at an appropriate scale. This shall include an assessment of value for money taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought ● the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise 	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● include a realistic theory of change demonstrating how outcomes will flow from the interventions, at an efficient rate and an appropriate scale ● demonstrate value for money taking account of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought ○ the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact <p>UK Government assessment will take account of innovation in service delivery (including potential higher initial costs of innovative delivery approaches).</p>	

<p>impact (not applicable to employment interventions).</p>	<p><i>Note - match funding is not a requirement for any project and will not be an assessment consideration for projects solely focused on employment interventions.</i></p>	
<p>4. That the project would not proceed without funding or could only be delivered on a smaller scale.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they have clearly articulated the additional outcomes, benefits and impacts UK Community Renewal Funding will achieve, compared with the status quo.</p>	
<p>5. An effective monitoring and evaluation strategy has been identified for the project.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they set out well developed and credible plans that have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key actions identified for baselining, monitoring, data collection and dissemination of lessons learnt. • a credible approach for an effective evaluation that is appropriate to project size and covers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ appropriateness of initial design ○ progress against targets ○ delivery and management ○ outcomes and impact ○ value for money ○ lessons learnt <p>Note - the approach will vary depending on the scale and nature of each project and evaluation may be undertaken by someone with necessary skills (whether in-house or external).</p>	

Stage 3: Selection

1. Appointable projects will be grouped into three bands:
 - a. **Band A:** Projects that have scored 80% or above on both 'strategic fit' and 'deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency' and predominantly focus on priority places.
 - b. **Band B:** Projects that have scored 80% or above on both 'strategic fit' and 'deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency' and do not predominantly focus on priority places
 - c. **Band C:** Projects that have scored 50% or above on both 'strategic fit' and 'deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency' and predominantly focus on priority places
2. With reference to the above, to assess the predominant focus of the project we will determine whether the majority of spend (51% or over) is in priority places listed [here](#). Project applicants have been asked to set out the amount of spend in each place on the application form.
3. Projects will be selected in order of their bands. Within these bands, projects will be selected in order of a combined percentage score (i.e. out of 100) across the two themes with equal weighting. For example, a project that scored 70% on strategic fit and 60% on deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency would receive a combined score of 65%.
4. In selecting projects we will apply a cap of £3m per place (listed [here](#)) which will be based on the indicative breakdown of spend by place provided as part of proposals.
5. In the event where two or more projects have the same combined score but cannot all be funded, funding will be awarded to the project which will be delivered in a place highest on the index. If a project invests in more than one place, we will use the ranking of the place which receives the most spend under the proposal. Project applicants have been asked to set out the amount of spend in each place on the application form.
6. In addition to selecting projects based on a project's score and the prioritisation of the place, Ministers can exercise discretion to meet the following finite set of additional considerations:

- a. Ensuring a reasonable thematic split of approved projects (e.g. skills, local business, communities and place, employment support)
 - b. Ensuring a balanced spread of approved projects across Great Britain
 - c. Ensuring that the balance of approved projects between those focused on priority and non-priority places gives appropriate regard to priority places
 - d. Where no distinction can be made between two or more projects on the basis of the combined score and the prioritisation of the relevant place(s) via the index (i.e. where projects score the same and e.g. cover the same geography), Ministers can make decisions between projects based on which they consider the best value for money in delivering the objectives of the programme.
7. Applicants should note that this is a competitive process and there is no minimum amount available per place. Where bids do not meet the criteria described above, they will not be supported.

Northern Ireland
Stage 1. Gateway criteria

Criteria	Assessment
1. Project proposal will be delivered (including all expenditure incurred) by 31 March 2022.	<p style="text-align: center;">Pass/Fail</p> <p>Projects must pass all gateway criteria to be considered for selection.</p> <p>Failure to adequately demonstrate one or more of these criteria will result in project rejection.</p> <p><i>*Criteria 2-4 and 6 are assessed as Pass/Fail/Partial. Where the project could proceed with amendments, it will be considered to pass Gateway Criteria.</i></p>
2. Project proposal responds to a need identified in the prospectus.*	
3. Project proposal does not duplicate other national or local provision.*	
4. Project proposal does not conflict with national policy.*	
5. Project proposal will be delivered by a legally constituted organisation that can receive public funds	
6. Project proposal will be delivered in line with subsidy control/State Aid requirements.*	
7. Project proposal will be delivered in accordance with branding requirements	

Stage 2: Scoring (consistent with Great Britain)

Criteria 1: Strategic fit		
Sub-criteria	Example evidence of meeting the criteria <i>This is non-exhaustive and other evidence may be provided and considered as part of the assessment</i>	Assessment
1. Level of contribution to local needs articulated in relevant local plans and with evidence of local support.	<p>As a minimum, projects will need to articulate how they demonstrate strategic fit as defined under 3.2 – 3.5 in the prospectus and reference local needs.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly address a priority intervention in a local plan – such as investing in a target sector or place, or • where there is clear support from local partners such as other local authorities or elected representatives. 	<p>Each sub-criteria is given a mark out of 5. These are summed with equal weighting.</p> <p>This is converted to a percentage score for the theme (e.g. a maximum mark of 25 would give a score of 100%).</p>
2. Level of contribution to an articulated investment priority set out at sections 3.2 to 3.5 in the prospectus	<p>As a minimum, projects will need to articulate: the priority groups they intend to support; the proposed project activities and the applicable interventions they propose to deliver under sections 3.2 -3.5 in the prospectus; and how the interventions will deliver and contribute to relevant fund outcomes.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on priority groups or interventions identified in the prospectus and • will deliver a significant and observable contribution to relevant fund outcomes (e.g. 100 people have moved 	

	<p>into employment, including self-employment, following support).</p> <p>Project Applicants should consider summarising the customer journey using a flow chart showing specific project activities; and/or provide a supporting logic model or theory of change which clearly demonstrates the links between the activities and inputs, outputs and outcomes.</p>	
<p>3. The extent of contribution to net zero objectives, as set out at section 3.1.1 of the prospectus, or wider environmental considerations (not applicable to employment support interventions)</p>	<p>As a minimum, bids should meet the clean growth principle and not conflict with the UK’s legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where they actively support progress to net zero for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting and supporting innovative clean technology • supporting net zero skills and supply chains e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering carbon literacy and wider environmental consideration for skills sectors being supported; ○ Full carbon footprinting, supporting carbon and environmental impacts in key supply chains; ○ Community engagement & supporting local climate plans. 	
<p>4. The extent to which the project can inform the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through transferable learning or opportunity to scale up</p>	<p>As a minimum, projects should commit to project level evaluation and to work collaboratively with the UK government on programme level evaluation.</p> <p>Projects are likely to score higher where, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the approach has demonstrable application elsewhere, or 	

for local partners and UK government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is trialling a response to an identified priority set out in section 3.2 to 3.5 of the prospectus. 	
5. The extent to which the project demonstrates innovation in service delivery.	<p>Projects are likely to score higher by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introducing new delivery approaches (for example, trialling new modes of delivery) • delivering integrated approaches across policy themes or • achieving collaboration across more than one place. 	

Criteria 2: Deliverability, effectiveness, and efficiency		
Sub-criteria	Example evidence of meeting the criteria	Assessment
	<p><i>This is non-exhaustive and other evidence may be provided and considered as part of the assessment</i></p>	
1. That it can be delivered as proposed by March 2022 with realistic milestones identified.	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a good understanding of the roles and responsibilities, skills, capability, or capacity needed • a fully secured funding package (including match funding where relevant) or a clear and realistic plan to secure prior to project start • a good understanding of how the proposal is compliant with UK subsidy control regime (where relevant) • under Part 1 (Q1i), the Application sets out a realistic timetable which includes milestones for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Securing internal approvals for the project or any other funding ○ Establishing the project team ○ project launch and recruiting beneficiaries, ○ key points on the beneficiary journey 	<p>Each sub-criteria is given a mark out of 5. These are summed with equal weighting.</p> <p>This is converted to a percentage score for the theme (e.g. a maximum mark of 25 would give a score of 100%).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ procurement for external services/suppliers 	
<p>2. Project risks have been identified and are adequately mitigated, including project-level management controls.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● carefully considered and identified implementation and delivery risks ● there are corresponding and appropriate mitigations for key risks ● arrangements for managing and escalating risk are articulated including roles and responsibilities ● contingency plans are in place to manage risks, including project delays. 	
<p>3. The applicant sets out an efficient mode of delivery, taking account of the level of innovation proposed and will operate at an appropriate scale. This shall include an assessment of value for money taking account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought ● the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact (not applicable) 	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● include a realistic theory of change demonstrating how outcomes will flow from the interventions, at an efficient rate and an appropriate scale ● demonstrate value for money taking account of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the level of contribution to programme outputs for funding sought ○ the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact <p>UK Government assessment will take account of innovation in service delivery (including potential higher initial costs of innovative delivery approaches).</p> <p><i>Note - match funding is not a requirement for any project and will not be an assessment consideration for projects solely focused on employment interventions.</i></p>	

<p>to employment interventions).</p>		
<p>4. That the project would not proceed without funding or could only be delivered on a smaller scale.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they have clearly articulated the additional outcomes, benefits and impacts UK Community Renewal Funding will achieve, compared with the status quo.</p>	
<p>5. An effective monitoring and evaluation strategy has been identified for the project.</p>	<p>Projects are likely to score higher where they set out well developed and credible plans that have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key actions identified for baselining, monitoring, data collection and dissemination of lessons learnt. • a credible approach for an effective evaluation that is appropriate to project size and covers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ appropriateness of initial design ○ progress against targets ○ delivery and management ○ outcomes and impact ○ value for money ○ lessons learnt <p>Note - the approach will vary depending on the scale and nature of each project and evaluation may be undertaken by someone with necessary skills (whether in-house or external).</p>	

Stage 3: Selection

1. Projects will be prioritised based on a combined percentage score (i.e. out of 100) across the two themes with equal weighting. For example, a project that scored 70% on strategic fit and 60% on deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency would receive a combined score of 65%.
2. In addition to selecting projects based on a project's score, Ministers can exercise discretion to meet the following finite set of additional considerations:
 - a. Ensuring a reasonable thematic split of approved projects (e.g. skills, local business, communities and place, employment support)
 - b. Ensuring a balanced spread of approved projects across Northern Ireland
 - c. Where no distinction can be made between two or more projects on the basis of the combined score, Ministers can make decisions between projects based on which they consider the best value for money in delivering the objectives of the programme.
3. Applicants should note that this is a competitive process and there is no minimum amount available per place. Where bids do not meet the criteria described above, they will not be supported.
4. Projects can be of any value up to the total allocation of £11 million for Northern Ireland. However, applicants should note that this is a competitive process, and the UK government will be looking to select a portfolio of different size projects, covering a range of themes and geographies, subject to the volume and quality of proposals received.
5. We recognise the importance of not only meeting our legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 but also giving due regard to the additional equalities considerations that apply in Northern Ireland.

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