



UK Government



North Yorkshire
County Council

The UK Community
Renewal Fund
North Yorkshire
Prospectus

April 2021

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In March this year, the UK Government announced the launch of the UK Community Renewal Fund, one of a range of measures introduced as part of the transition from European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 1.2 North Yorkshire County Council is the Lead Authority for the Community Renewal Fund in North Yorkshire and is tasked with administering the fund and assessing projects prior to submission to Government.
- 1.3 This prospectus will outline the Government's objectives and aspirations for the Community Renewal Fund (CRF), highlight local priorities and the strategic aims which applicants are required to consider and outline the process for making applications and the support which will be available for prospective applicants.

2.0 UK Community Renewal Fund Overview

- 2.1 The UK Community Renewal Fund provides short term revenue funding aimed at delivering the Government's objectives of:
 - Supporting a smooth transition from the UK's membership of the European Union
 - Enabling innovation through pilot programmes and new approaches, which better support people and communities in need across the UK.
 - A new way of working between UK Government and places.
 - Levelling up and creating opportunity for people and places across the UK.
- 2.2 To achieve this the government has identified the following four priorities:
 - Investment in Skills
 - Investment for local business
 - Investment in communities and place
 - Supporting people into employment
- 2.3 Full details of the fund can be found here on the Government's Website including the fund prospectus, guidance for applicants and application form <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus>
- 2.4 The fund has been allocated £220m, (90% Revenue funding, 10% Capital) across Great Britain and will last up until the 31st March 2022 by which date all project funding must be spent by this date and all work completed.

3.0 Geographic Coverage and Priority Places

- 3.1 This is the prospectus for the County of North Yorkshire which covers the 'places' (districts and boroughs) of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. Each place is eligible to bid for funding however the Government has identified 100 'priority places' in order to target investment at communities in need and Richmondshire District and Scarborough Borough fall into this category and priority places are part of the assessment criteria for determining funding allocations so we welcome bids that include these places. Full details of the priority places and the prioritisation criteria and assessment are available on the Government website alongside the prospectus <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus>.
- 3.2 Each 'Place' - can bid for a maximum of £3m. However, it should be noted that there is no minimum allocation for any local authority area, that the fund is competitive and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will have the final say as to which projects or programmes are awarded funding.

4.0 National Priorities

- 4.1 In outlining the aims of the Community Renewal Fund the Government has identified the following priorities for investment:
- 4.2 **Investment in skills**
The UK Community Renewal Fund will help equip people with the skills they need to seize new opportunities and ensure their local communities are prosperous and productive. This includes equipping people with the skills they need to capitalise on the opportunities and needs of their local area and meet the needs of an increasingly green and digital economy.
- 4.3 **Investment for local business**
Targeted support for local business can help local residents through increased employment, better training and in-work opportunities and creating new entrepreneurial ventures.
- We are especially interested in projects that target support for under-represented groups and community-level interventions that can increase opportunity for all, including coastal and rural enterprises.
- 4.4 **Investment in communities and place**
Our communities are at the core of our cultural and economic heritage and identity. We need to invest further to maximise opportunities to bring people together, build our social fabric and boost recovery and resilience. In turn, this will create places where people want to work, visit and live. Investing in improving, protecting and creating community and natural assets can boost pride and wellbeing, drive productivity, attract and retain talent, and nurture a unique sense of place.
- 4.5 **Supporting people into employment**
We need to act to reduce the additional barriers some people face to employment in order to enable them to take advantage of the economic opportunities as the UK moves forward. Investment here will help places provide local, tailored, wrap-around support to those furthest from the labour market – focusing on individuals who find it difficult to engage with mainstream provision or for whom mainstream provision is not an option. This will support people in overcoming a variety of additional barriers to employment or mainstream programmes which they are unable to fully utilise without additional support.

4.6 **Compliance with UK Priorities**

Project proposals should comply with the following UK priorities outlined in the Government’s prospectus:

- Contributing to net zero carbon and environmental objectives, including enabling a natural capital approach to our resources.
- Using the UK internal market act 2020 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/27/contents/enacted>
- The public sector equality duty

4.7 The UK Community Renewal Fund will support our communities to pilot programmes and new approaches ahead of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Through these pilots, we want to unleash new ideas and pilot programmes to better support people and communities in need across the UK.

4.8 We want to support innovative responses to local challenges and local need across the UK, spanning urban, rural and coastal areas.

4.9 This includes removing barriers that people face in accessing skills and local labour market opportunities, building the evidence base for future interventions and exploring the viability of new ideas.

4.10 Full details of the UK wide priorities of the Fund can be found in the governments UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus-2021-22>

5.0 North Yorkshire Priorities

5.1 In order to ensure that the county’s final submission to Government has a good strategic fit with local priorities applications are sought which are priorities within local strategic documents. These include:

Agencies	Local strategic documents
York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategies	Local Industrial Strategy https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/lis/ Covid Recovery Plan https://www.businessinspiredgrowth.com/covid-19/a-plan-to-reshape-our-economy/ York and North Yorkshire Devolution deal
District Council Strategies in North Yorkshire	Craven District Council https://www.cravencd.gov.uk/ Hambleton District Council https://www.hambleton.gov.uk/ Harrogate Borough Council https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/ Scarborough Borough Council https://www.scarborough.gov.uk/ Selby District Council https://www.selby.gov.uk/ Richmondshire District Council https://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/ Ryedale District Council https://www.ryedale.gov.uk/
North Yorkshire County Council	A plan for economic recovery and growth 2021 – 2024

5.2 To support delivery against these strategic priorities we are encouraging projects within the following themes:

1. Town Centres
2. Community Investment
3. Smart Places (digital connectivity)
4. Tourism, Heritage and Culture
5. Business and Employment
6. Skills
7. Green Future

For full details of these themes and how to contact the theme leads, please visit our website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund

6.0 Securing the Best Deal for North Yorkshire

6.1 The total value of the Community Renewal Fund in Great Britain is £220m and the allocation of the funding is a competitive process. Therefore, North Yorkshire must ensure it submits a high quality bid to secure maximum return for the region. Projects should demonstrate effective scale, impact and deliverability to support the success of the overall programme North Yorkshire County Council will appraise and prioritise applications before submitting a finalised portfolio of projects to the MHCLG on June 18th 2021. Projects will be shortlisted for submission to MHCLG according to the UK Government community Renewal Fund Assessment Process https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/972992/UKCRF_assessment_criteria_v1.1.pdf which considers strategic fit (including with local priorities and strategies), deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency. NYCC will also consider how

innovative projects are and how they might become pilot schemes or precursors to longer term initiatives which address key strategic issues in relation to future rounds of the Levelling up Fund or Shared Prosperity Fund.

6.2 The UK government will assess all bids from across the UK against the criteria outlined in the government prospectus. Final decisions to approve or reject a bid will be made by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Successful bids will be notified from the end of July 2021 onwards. The County Council as lead authority will then contact bidders to update on the outcome.

7.0 Developing Our Strongest Bid – prioritising projects in North Yorkshire.

7.1 Project size and delivery timescales

Government guidance states that, “We anticipate supporting a range of projects by theme and size, but we encourage applicants to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects (£500,000+) where this is possible”. The guidance also requires that all projects are complete by the end of March 2022. Although there is no lower limit on the size of applications the assessment by NYCC will consider the potential for larger projects to maximise impact and would strongly encourage applicants to submit bids of between £100,000 and £1m. If your project falls below £100k, we would advise you to contact the theme lead to discuss opportunities to link with other initiatives.

7.2 All projects should include an allocation for evaluation of 1-2% of project costs with a minimum amount of £10,000. Projects will be evaluated at a programme level within the seven priority areas highlighted in section 5.2.

7.3 The business case

Before submitting an application applicants should carefully consider the technical note for project applicants and deliverers, and the application form itself. In order for projects to be submitted to MHCLG they must demonstrate a viable business case including:

- Project Summary – including beneficiaries and key milestones
- Project Impact
- Funding package
- Project Applicant Experience and Capacity
- Project Risk Management

7.4 How to apply

Applications should be submitted to North Yorkshire County Council using the approved application form and submitted via the North Yorkshire County Council project portal no later than 12:00pm midnight on May 13th 2021. Please note that some sections have word limits that must be adhered to and no additional appendices can be added to the form. Late applications will not be considered. Applicants are advised to submit applications in advance of this deadline to allow for any technology issues which may arise. Issues such as broadband failure or similar will not be taken as mitigation of late submission. NYCC will then appraise bids and submit shortlisted applications to MHCLG in accordance with the published assessment criteria. Applications cannot be submitted to MHCLG by any organisation other than the lead authority. The application form can be found on the NYCC website www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund

7.5 Applicants should include the organisations most recent set of audited accounts with their application.

7.6 **Collaboration and cross boundary projects**

Projects which cover one or more 'places' and deliver enhanced impact as a result are encouraged. Projects can also cover more than one Lead Authority area and may aggregate funding accordingly. Multiple organisations may also collaborate in order to maximise impact and capacity to deliver projects. If this is the case a lead organisation should be identified to submit the application in behalf of partners.

7.7 **Evaluation**

Applicants, if successful, must develop an evaluation plan with between 1-2% of their award to be dedicated to that evaluation with a minimum threshold of £10,000. NYCC will liaise with successful applicants on a monthly basis to support ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

7.8 For more information on monitoring and data indicators please refer to the Government's Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/972988/UKCRF_Technical_Note_for_Project_Applicants_and_Deliverers.pdf

7.9 **Assurance**

Any legally constituted organisation can receive funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund to deliver an approved project. Private sector organisations and registered charities can be project deliverers where they are providing a service to benefit other organisations or individuals.

7.10 For the avoidance of doubt, it is a requirement that each grant must be used for the purpose intended, and this will be subject to monitoring and final review. Any underspend will be recovered and/or not paid.

7.11 **Allocation of funding for successful bids**

Successful bids will be subject to a funding agreement with the Lead Authority (North Yorkshire County Council). We anticipate making an initial payment of 50% of project funds on commencement and then 50% payment on completion. As this arrangement is still to be confirmed, please visit our website for any updates on funding agreements.

7.12 **Leveraging other funds**

Applications do not require match funding however the amount of match funding or leverage proposed to maximise impact (not applicable to employment interventions) will be considered as part of the appraisal process. Applications should show that the project would not proceed without funding or could only be delivered on a smaller scale

7.13 **Appraisal and prioritisation**

All projects will be assessed according to UK Assessment Process and we advise all applicants to read this document for full details. The appraisal process is conducted in 3 stages:

Stage 1: Gateway criteria (Pass or Fail)

Stage 2: Scoring – based on strategic fit, deliverability, efficiency and effectiveness

Stage 3: Selection – appointed projects are grouped into 1 of 3 bands (A, B or C)

7.14 Due diligence will be undertaken on the lead organisation to check that the applicant is genuine, and has the financial standing and sufficient capacity to deliver the proposed activity. A subsidy control assessment will also be undertaken on all applications so applicants should seek independent legal advice on their proposals to ensure compliance with subsidy control.

7.15 Shortlisted projects based on the 3 stages and due diligence will then be sent to MHCLG for final approval.

8.0 Contact with Successful Lead Organisations –

8.1 Once North Yorkshire County Council have been notified of their funding allocation and successful bids, they will contact the successful lead organisation and issue a funding agreement.

9.0 Project Application and Delivery Timetable

- March 2021 – Consultation with local organisations
- April 2021 – Publication of the North Yorkshire Community Renewal Fund Prospectus, support for applications and guidance for applicants
- **May 13th 2021** – deadline for submission of projects to North Yorkshire County Council. Only projects submitted on the correct application form will be considered.
- May 2021 – sifting and appraisal of applications. During this time the Council may seek clarification from applicants where required.
- June 18th 2021 – deadline for submission of projects to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government
- End June 2021 - NYCC will inform all applicants if their projects have been included in our submission to Government
- August 2021 – Local Councils informed as to the success of their applications to MHCLG. Contracting and commencement of programmes can begin
- November / December 2021 - Mid-point monitoring reviews of projects with lead authorities – monthly monitoring
- March 31 2022 – all projects must be completed.

10.0 Key Points to Note:

- The deadline for applications to North Yorkshire County Council is **12:00 midnight on May 13th 2021**. Technical issues will not be accepted as a reason to extend this deadline
- Projects must be submitted on the official application form.
- Although there are no officially prescribed limits up to the £3m funding limit for individual places, the Government has indicated that projects of around £500,000 are preferred. We would therefore advise organisations to aggregate small projects into larger programmes of over £100,000 wherever possible.
- Post implementation review
- All projects must be completed by the end of March 2022.
- Project proposals must clearly show that they are deliverable, including allowing for procurement and contracting where required. This should include a clear timetable for delivery, analysis of risk and clarity of costs and available funding.
- There is no requirement for match funding, however the inclusion of match funding will be considered in project appraisal
- Successful projects will be notified following appraisal by MHCLG, at the beginning of August 2021.
- Successful projects must adhere to the publicity and branding requirements in line with MHCLG criteria as stated in the Fund Technical Note for Project Deliverers

11.0 Contact Us

- 11.1 Further information and supporting documents are available from the North Yorkshire County Council dedicated UK Community Renewal Fund Website: www.northyorks.gov.uk/communityrenewalfund or by contacting us via e-mail at EconomicGrowth@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact us

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Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm
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If you would like this information in another language or format please ask us.

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