



UK Government



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UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to submit a project bid

Introduction

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

Before starting work on a bid, please read the UK Community Renewal Fund:

- **prospectus**
- **technical note for project applicants and deliverers**
- **assessment criteria**
- **application form**

They are available to read or download from [GOV.UK: UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus](#).

The Prospectus provides detailed information on the objectives of the Fund, the types of projects it intends to support and how it operates, including the process and selection criteria that will be used to assess bids.

Successful UK Community Renewal Fund bids will be for 2021/22 only and activity must end by 31 March 2022.

Background

To help local areas prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the UK government is providing funding in 2021/22 through the UK Community Renewal Fund.

We are interested in bids that build on local insight and knowledge, and project proposals that align with long-term strategic plans for local growth, target people most in need and support community renewal. In addition, projects should show how they complement other national and local provision.

A focus for this Fund is to support **innovation** and **new ideas** in these areas, investing in pilots that draw on local insights and which will help places to prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022.

Thurrock Council has been designated as a lead authority by the government. As a lead authority Thurrock Council is responsible for:

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

The government will make the final decision to award funding to successful projects. Full details of the role of lead authorities are available at [GOV.UK: UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus](#).

Who can apply

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

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

Full details on who can apply are available in the 'Technical note for project applicants and deliverers', which you can download from [GOV.UK: UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus](#).

Type of bid we looking for

Investment priorities

Projects must deliver activity that is line with the UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus and align with **one or more** of these investment priorities:

- investment in skills
- investment for local business
- investment in communities and place
- supporting people into employment

There are no financial allocations to these priorities.

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

The government gives examples of the types of bids they may support in the Prospectus, which is available at [GOV.UK: UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus](#).

Bid value and funding type

The government anticipates supporting a range of projects by investment priority and size. There is no minimum value for a project but applicants are encouraged to maximise impact and deliverability through larger projects – **£500,000 or more** – where this is possible.

We will only be able to shortlist bids to a total value of £3,000,000.

As 90% of funding available through the UK Community Renewal Fund is revenue funding and only available in 2021/22, projects should be predominantly, or exclusively revenue based. Projects that focus predominantly on the construction or major refurbishment of buildings, the purchase of land or the purchase of large pieces of equipment will not be supported.

Priority places

To ensure the UK Community Renewal Fund funding reaches the most in need, the government has identified 100 priority places for investment based on an index of economic resilience across Great Britain. Thurrock is not identified as a priority place for this programme however are still eligible to submit a bid for funding.

Thurrock Council will submit one shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3m.

Applicants may choose for their proposed project to operate either:

- within one ward area
- across multiple ward areas
- across the whole of Thurrock

Local priorities

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

Thurrock Council seeks bids that demonstrate alignment with local strategic plans such as the Backing Thurrock Economic Development Strategy and South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Recovery and Renewal Plan and do not duplicate or conflict with other national or local provision.

The economic development strategy, 'Backing Thurrock', along with its action plan can be downloaded from [Thurrock Council: Community renewal fund](#).

Download the SELEP Recovery and Renewal Plan from [SELEP: Economic recovery and renewal strategy](#).

How bids will be assessed

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

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

Stages of assessment

Full bids should be submitted to Thurrock Council no later than **midday, Thursday 20 May 2021**, but preferably sooner if possible.

Thurrock Council will submit one shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3m to the government on 18 June 2021.

The council will arrange for all bids will be assessed and shortlisted between 20 May and 18 June 2021. Thurrock Council will consult local stakeholders (without a conflict of interest) to ascertain evidence of local support during the assessment and prioritisation process.

Thurrock Council will consider shortlisting those eligible bids that most strongly demonstrate a strong link to the UK Community Renewal Fund assessment criteria and meet the minimum assessment threshold set by the government.

The government will then assess all bids submitted by lead authorities across the UK. The government will announce the outcome of the assessment process from late July 2021 onwards.

Thurrock Council will then contact and enter into a funding agreement with any successful bidders.

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

Assessment criteria

Bids will be assessed against the government's assessment criteria, available at [GOV.UK: UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus](#). **Please read this document**, which specifies the:

- gateway criteria
- strategic fit criteria

- the deliverability, effectiveness and efficiency criteria
- how project bids will be banded

Due diligence check

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

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

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

Submitting a bid

While not compulsory it would be helpful if you could email crf@thurrock.gov.uk by **Friday 30 April 2021** to let us know if you plan to bid, briefly what you would like to do and how much CRF funding you intend to ask for. Please also let us know if you are happy to be introduced to other organisations who may be interested in delivering similar or complementary activity to see if you can work together.

Full application

All applicants must submit:

- a bid on a completed UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form
- a copy of the last year of accounts

Bids must be submitted using the UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form, which is can be downloaded from [GOV.UK: UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus](#). **Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.**

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

Bids must be submitted to Thurrock Council using this email address: crf@thurrock.gov.uk

Bids must be submitted by no later than **midday, Thursday 20 May 2021**. Early submission of bids is encouraged.

Monitoring and evaluation

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

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

Thurrock Council will invite successful applicants to share their learning via a UK CRF evaluation to take place in spring 2022.

Lead authority cost incurred in managing fund awards

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

Project applicants should factor this into their application.

Summary of dates

Activity	Deadline / dates
Email crf@thurrock.gov.uk to let us know whether you plan to submit a bid, what you want to do, and how much CRF funding you plan to ask for	30 April 2021
Project applicants to email their application (and last year of accounts) to crf@thurrock.gov.uk	No later than midday, Thursday 20 May 2021
Project applicants informed by Thurrock Council whether their bid has been shortlisted and sent to the government	No later than midday, Friday 18 June 2021
The government announces which projects will be awarded funding	Late July 2021 onwards
Project delivery, spend and evaluation	From late July 2021 to 31 March 2022

Further support

If you have any queries regarding the Community Renewal Fund or application process, please email crf@thurrock.gov.uk

This is a new fund and we will be holding question and answer sessions for potential applicants to meet and to learn from each other. Sessions will be held on:

- **Friday 23 April 2021**, from 10am to 11:30am
- **Tuesday 27 April 2021**, from 2pm to 3:30pm

If you would like to join a virtual question and answer session, please email crf@thurrock.gov.uk