

Community Renewal Fund Webinar 29th April 2021

Questions and Answers:

1. Is it possible to lead on a bid or project and be a partner in another?

Yes – Section 2.4 of the technical guidance note to applicants covers projects involving more than one partner. It states ‘If there is more than one organisation applying to deliver a project, a lead organisation must be selected to become the lead applicant with the remaining organisations acting as delivery partners. In this situation the applicant would be responsible and liable for the delivery partners and ensuring the project is operating as planned.

2. Is it possible to be a partner in multiple bids/projects?

Yes – Section 2.4 also applies to be a partner in multiple bids/projects.

3. Will Plymouth City Council have a role in supporting an overall evaluation submission or will each project be responsible for their own evaluation only?

For each successful project, the project deliverer is responsible for delivering evaluation. As stated in the Technical notes for project deliverers, section 9.3 ‘Applicants, if successful, must also develop an evaluation plan with between 1-2% of their award to be dedicated to that evaluation with a minimum threshold of £10,000.’

4. What is the connection between this pilot fund and the planned Shared Prosperity fund? Would Plymouth City Council be looking to support successful pilots from this round to apply in the future?

The UK Community Renewal Fund will help inform the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through funding of one-year pilots, but the funds are distinct in regard to design, eligibility, and duration. Sections 1.3 and 2.1 of the UK CRF Prospectus further describe the connection.

5. Can we leverage capital equipment paid for by ERDF and LEP funding as match? (we would be looking for revenue funding in this bid)

There is no match funding requirement but you are encouraged to leverage other funding if this is possible. However, there is a requirement of the Community Renewal Fund for projects to be innovative and to be able to demonstrate the additional impact that funding would have on the scale, scope and/or quality of the existing project. In addition, there is no mandatory requirement to include capital costs in a project. We are interested in bids that are either wholly or predominantly revenue based. The UK CRF Prospectus Section 7 talks further on this.

6. What are the Reporting timeframes, will they be quarterly?

We are still waiting for further guidance on monitoring and evaluation which will be released later in the spring. Provisionally, we are expecting that claims will be quarterly in arrears and we will expect the project deliverer to provide an update alongside this.

7. Midpoint monitoring review – is this the same as an interim Summative Assessment (i.e. external consultant) and does this cost need to be factored into the Evaluation Plan costs?

We are waiting for further guidance on monitoring and evaluation which may provide further insight but this will need to be factored into evaluation costs.

8. What is the potential date for eligible expenditure – will it be the same as ERDF and occur from the date of offer letter? Will this mean a project start date of the beginning of August?

As stated in the UK CRF FAQs 1.10 *'Costs are eligible for support from the date that projects are approved by UK government. Decisions will be made from late July and precise dates will be confirmed in the agreement between MHCLG and the relevant Lead Authority or project deliverer in Northern Ireland. UK Community Renewal Fund costs may only be incurred from the point of approval onwards – retrospective costs will not be paid.'*

9. How much is the total funding pot available to Plymouth City Council? How many projects are Plymouth City Council planning to fund?

Plymouth City Council can shortlist projects up to £3 million.

10. Can projects cover more than one Local Authority area, e.g Plymouth & Devon. If so how will the process for this work in the appraisal?

Yes, projects can cover multiple Local Authority areas including multiple Lead Authority areas. As stated in the [Community Renewal Fund Frequently Asked Questions](#), 2.7: *'Project applicants can submit to more than one Lead Authority in response to local bidding processes if their project responds to requirements set out across more than one place. UK government is inviting Lead Authorities to 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. In these circumstances, Lead Authorities may choose to run a joint process and/or assess bids collaboratively.'*

Projects that span across both priority and non-priority areas will be assessed and if the majority of the project (51% or more) spend is in the priority place it will be considered a priority project.

If you are planning to submit an application across more than one place including Plymouth, please let us know by emailing CommunityRenewalFund@plymouth.gov.uk

11. Does the project have to be one Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area, or could they cross multiple? For example, Plymouth and Cornwall?

Yes, projects can cross multiple LEP areas, or multiple [places](#). As stated in the previous question, projects that respond to the requirements set out across more than one place can submit in multiple areas. Projects that span across both priority and non-priority places will be assessed and if the majority of the project (51% or more) spend is in the priority place it will be considered a priority project. If you are planning to submit an application across more

than one place including Plymouth, please let us know by emailing CommunityRenewalFund@plymouth.gov.uk

12. Would Plymouth City Council be a 'lead authority' like one of the 100 nominated places?

Plymouth City Council is a lead authority for the Community Renewal Fund. The 100 identified places are the priority locations which have been identified to prioritise who will receive funding. Plymouth has not been designated as a priority place but is still eligible to bid for CRF.

13. Is there a defined format for evaluation? i.e Summative Assessment Model

The release of additional guidance on monitoring and evaluation later this spring should provide further clarification on the specific format of the evaluation.

14. Do you have any idea what will be seen as value for money? Is this likely to be similar to current ESF/ERDF levels?

The value for money of the project will be reviewed in the assessment process by the lead authority, and may be used by Ministers to make decisions between projects based on which they consider the best value for money in delivering the objectives of CRF. We are looking for innovative proposals and value for money will be considered in this context (including potential higher initial costs of innovative delivery approaches).