

# UK Community Renewal Fund

## Invitation to Submit Project Bids for North and West Northamptonshire

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## Introduction

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

Northamptonshire County Council has been identified as the Lead Local Authority and will be responsible for launching this Invitation to Apply for Grant Funding. However, on 1<sup>st</sup> April, this Lead Authority role will transfer to the two new unitary councils of North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire, and each will then be responsible for receiving bids, shortlisting and paying grants to successful bidders in their respective areas.

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:

[UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus](#)

[UK Community Fund Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers](#)

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.

Northamptonshire County Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for:

- issuing this invitation

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, the Lead Authority role will transfer to the two new unitary councils of North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire who will then be responsible for the following in their respective areas:

- 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 in 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.

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 North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils will prioritise the bids in their respective areas that have the greatest potential to support a local economic recovery, complement existing economic development-related activity, meet identified need, have strong support, and align with the four UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus priorities i.e. investment in skills, investment in local business, investment in communities and place, and supporting people into employment. As outlined in the Prospectus, the UK Community Renewal Fund provides an opportunity to pilot innovative projects, explore the viability of new ideas and build the evidence base for future interventions looking ahead to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will be introduced in 2022/23. This could include feasibility studies. Projects which are based on low or zero-carbon best practice, adopt and support clean tech, and support growing the skills and supply chains in support of 'Net-Zero' targets, are strongly welcomed. Projects should also consider impact of natural assets and nature, and ideally work with nature.

Corby, East Northamptonshire and Kettering have been identified in the Government's list of 100 'priority places'. 'Other places' listed include Daventry, Northampton and Wellingborough. South Northamptonshire is not listed, but projects covering this area are still eligible.

Relevant strategies and documents which should be considered by applicants include:

- [England's Economic Heartlands Transport Strategy](#)
- [South East Midlands Local Industrial Strategy](#)
- [Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc \(HM Government\)](#)

Geographic Coverage - projects should benefit the following places:

North Northamptonshire

- Corby – identified as a priority place
- East Northamptonshire – identified as a priority place

- Kettering – identified as a priority place
- Wellingborough

#### West Northamptonshire

- Daventry
- Northampton
- South Northamptonshire

### How Bids Will be Assessed

As the lead authorities North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils will assess all bids submitted in their respective areas. 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 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.

North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders in their respective areas.

### Submitting a Bid

Bids must be submitted using the [UK Community Renewal Fund Application Form](#). Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

Bids in **North Northamptonshire** (Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough) must be submitted to North Northamptonshire Council using this email address: [communityrenewalfund@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communityrenewalfund@northnorthants.gov.uk)

Bids in **West Northamptonshire** (Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire) must be submitted to West Northamptonshire Council using this email address: [communityrenewalfund@westnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:communityrenewalfund@westnorthants.gov.uk)

Bids which cover both North and West Northamptonshire Council areas must be submitted to both authorities.

Bids must be submitted by 12 noon on 3rd May 2021

The UK Community Renewal Fund is a competitive process and North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders.

### Next Steps

- Invitation to Submit Project Bids issued by Northamptonshire County Council 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- Applicants develop projects
- Submission deadline – 12 noon on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 - projects submitted to North or West Northamptonshire Councils
- North Northamptonshire Council or West Northamptonshire Councils assess project proposals and agree final priority projects
- Submission deadline – 12 noon on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Shortlisted projects submitted to Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
- From late July 2021 - MHCLG approve projects
- North Northamptonshire Council or West Northamptonshire Council contract with approved projects. Grant agreements will include allocated funding, relevant milestones/outputs, claim process, monitoring and evaluation requirements, reporting, branding guidelines etc.
- Projects and delivery commence
- November/December 2021 – Mid-point delivery review
- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 - Practical completion of delivery of projects