



# UK Community Renewal Fund

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

## **Introduction**

Bridgend County Borough 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.

Bridgend County Borough Council has been designated as a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, Bridgend County Borough 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 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 Bridgend County Borough Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities.

Bridgend County Borough Council will be inviting applications from organisations that support the above themes and are in line with our local priorities as set out in the [Bridgend Public Services Board Well-being Plan](#) and [our corporate plan](#).

Geographic Coverage - projects should benefit the following places:

- Bridgend County Borough

## **How Bids Will be Assessed**

As the lead authority Bridgend County Borough 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 Bridgend County Borough 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.

Bridgend County Borough 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 Bridgend County Borough Council using this email address: [bridgendcrf@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:bridgendcrf@bridgend.gov.uk)

Bids must be submitted by 7am on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

The UK Community Renewal Fund is a competitive process and Bridgend County Borough Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders.