**UK Community Renewal Fund**

**North of Tyne Combined Authority Webinar – March 2021**

**Questions and Answers**

Following our webinar in March on the new UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) please find below a selection of questions raised at the event and their answers.

Further national information can be found here:

* UK Community Renewal Fund: frequently asked questions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
* https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fundprospectus

Further regional information relating specifically to local priorities and how to apply can be found here:

* [Invitation to Bid](https://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UK-Community-Renewal-Fund_Invitation-to-Bid_NTCA_FINAL-v-0.1r.pdf).

Further guidance from Government on assurance, monitoring and data requirements, evaluation and funding agreement template is anticipated later in the Spring.

If you have further questions email [CRF@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](mailto:CRF@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk)

VONNE has offered support to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations in helping to pool bids, please contact: [support@vonne.org.uk](mailto:support@vonne.org.uk)

1. **Who can apply?**

This is open to a whole range of organisationsincluding but not limited to local authorities, universities, voluntary and community sector organisations and umbrella business groups.

Please note that private sector organisations and registered charities may prepare bids where they are providing a service to benefit other organisations or individuals.

1. **Delivering a £500k project in 6 months and working across the three LA areas will be a challenge for many partners.**
   1. **Will NTCA be supporting ‘pooling’ or ‘bundling’ of small projects into wider applications that meet the £500k expectations?**
   2. **And if so, how?**

We encourage the bundling of smaller projects into wider packages.

We are aware of those challenges and one of the key criteria is for projects to be completed by 31st March 2022.

Only in very exceptional circumstances will the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) put forward bids of less than £500,000.

We strongly encourage partners working together to submit collaborative bids.

NTCA would like Community Renewal Fund projects to provide the maximum benefit to businesses, residents, and communities across the geography. While our preferred approach is for NTCA-wide bids we understand that for some projects this might not work.

We are grateful to VONNE who have offered some support in this respect to VCSE sector organisations and are also exploring whether anything else in addition can be offer. If you are a VCSE organisation and considering applying, please email: [support@vonne.org.uk](mailto:support@vonne.org.uk)

Please also see Q 1.5 in the FAQs on the government website.

1. **Is this a fully funded programme or does it require match funding to be provided?**

The UK Community Renewal Fund may fund up to 100% of the costs incurred in delivering activity. The UK Government encourages applicants to maximise the leverage of other funding, where appropriate. This includes other government funding where relevant.

1. **Can bids cover multiple themes?**

Bids may cover multiple themes or just one theme. Please see the technical note on the gov.uk website on assessment process/criteria.

1. **What are the project timescales?**

Projects should set realistic start and end dates as well as realistic milestones, taking account of the fact that all expenditure must be incurred by 31 March 2022. Costs may only be incurred from the point of approval onwards – retrospective costs will not be paid. Please see [FAQs](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-frequently-asked-questions) question 1.10.

Bids must be submitted to NTCA to this email address: [crf@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk](mailto:crf@northoftyne-ca.gov.uk) before midnight on **Friday, 7th May 2021**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

All applicants should use the application form on the Gov.uk website.

1. **Is the £9m being broken down further by activity? Also how is it being apportioned across the area?**

Not per activity.

Each lead authority can bid for up to £3m maximum per place (local authority area); hence £9m potentially available for the North of Tyne area, which consists of two ‘priority’ places (Newcastle upon Tyne and Northumberland) and one ‘other’ non-priority place (North Tyneside).

Projects with the majority of spend in priority places (51% or over) will be considered a priority project.

We would anticipate a good geographic spread of bids, but NTCA will not be seeking precisely £3m to each local authority area. The final decision on which proposals proceed will be taken by Government. Being a priority place does not guarantee funding.

Please see [UK Community Renewal Fund: prospectus 2021-22 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus-2021-22#uk-community-renewal-fund-investment-priorities) for further information about ‘priority’ places and ‘other’ places.

1. **Will there be an opportunity to pre-appraise projects and will NTCA work with shortlisted bidders to refine and optimise bids to Govt?**

It is a competitive process and projects will be appraised following final submission to NTCA. As regards working with shortlisted bidders, this will depend on the quality of bids received and take place only once bids are submitted to NTCA, assessed and shortlisted. Shortlisted and non-shortlisted applicants will be notified.

1. **Are there any specific outputs / results / outcomes to be achieved by the CRF funded projects?**

Please see the Technical Note for Project Applicants and Deliverers for information on outputs/outcomes/indicators/eligible beneficiaries (including age) and the [Invitation to Bid](https://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/UK-Community-Renewal-Fund_Invitation-to-Bid_NTCA_FINAL-v-0.1r.pdf) document for local priorities.  For skills-related projects, please also refer to the [NTCA Skills for Growth cal](https://www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/projects/skills-for-growth-call/)l.

1. **Will you be expecting applicants to cash flow the project?**

NTCA usually pays quarterly in arrears at an agreed intervention rate. Our preference is to operate in line with our standard processes; however, we understand in some cases flexibility may be required. Any change to the standard process will be by exception following an assessment of need and risk.

1. **What about region-wide bids?**

We would welcome region-wide bids, but you should apply to the NTCA for the North of Tyne element of the bid. We would be sympathetic to region-wide bids that were over £0.5m but where the North of Tyne ask was less than this (ideally £0.25m or above)

**13. Is the split between capital and revenue fixed or can there be more spent on capital, and if so, is there a maximum?**

UK Community Renewal Fund is predominantly a revenue programme. Government guidance states that 90% of funding available through the UK Community Renewal Fund is revenue funding, with a small amount of capital funding and that prospective applicants should calibrate their bids accordingly.

**14. Will there be any clawback of funding if output targets are not met?**

All projects funded will be required to meet their contractual requirements - this includes submitting regular monitoring returns. Each grant must be used for the purpose intended. This will be subject to monitoring and final review.