

# UK Community Renewal Fund

April 2021

Invitation to Submit Project  
Bids



UK Government



Essex County Council

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# Introduction

Essex County Council is seeking bids from organisations wishing to secure funding to deliver projects by March 2022 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 by 31 March 2022.

To ensure the UK Community Renewal Fund funding reaches the most in need, UK Government have identified 100 priority places based on an index of economic resilience across Great Britain which measures productivity, household income, unemployment, skills, and population density. For Essex County Council these priority places have been identified as Harlow and Tendring.

## 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.

The UK Government 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.

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

The Success Essex strategy which can be downloaded [here](#) sets out a Prosperity and Productivity plan for Essex, but can be summarised using the four missions below:

1. A dynamic Economy - We aim to create a more productive county, where more people are in knowledge-intensive, well-paid jobs, where strong demand for skills drives greater supply, and where innovation and rapid adoption of technology drive new opportunities across the economy.
2. A Resilient Economy - We aim to create an economy which is sustainable, where people, firms and institutions benefit from measures driven by technological and climate change and where the costs of change are managed effectively.
3. An Inclusive Economy - We aim to create a county in which all communities and individuals have the opportunity to participate in, and share the benefits of, economic growth
4. A Connected Economy - We aim to ensure good quality, sustainable digital and physical connectivity, linking businesses to markets and people to opportunities – within Essex and the rest of the UK and internationally

Subject to their chosen investment priority/ies, bids should reference evidence on local issues and how their proposals will address them, including the local economic context and the labour market.

Essex County Council is particularly interested to receive bids that will support the following:

- ensuring a successful reopening of the economy
- supporting Essex businesses to diversify and innovate, taking advantage of new opportunities including in the green economy and other growth sectors
- supporting the development of start-ups in growth sectors
- supporting individuals back into employment
- supporting communities to bounce back from the impact of Covid-19

Geographic Coverage - Projects must operate within the Essex County Council area. Projects which intend to operate across local authority boundaries should pay particular attention to the published government guidance.

Projects should benefit the following priority places:

- Harlow
- Tendring

Bids will only be considered from non-priority places in exceptional circumstances. Assessment of bids will take into consideration the predominant focus of the project where the majority of spend (51% or over) is in priority places.

## How bids will be assessed

As the lead authority Essex County 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 for 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 Essex County 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.

Essex County Council as lead authority will issue funding agreements to successful bidders once funding has been agreed by UK government, and then undertake monitoring and assurance activity.

We recommend that projects are not proposed to begin prior to August 2021, to allow sufficient time for government decision and for funding agreements to be entered.

## 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 by 5pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to Essex County Council using this email address: [economic.growth.team@essex.gov.uk](mailto:economic.growth.team@essex.gov.uk) (Please use 'CRF Bid' in the subject line)

The UK Community Renewal Fund is a competitive process and Essex County Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders once bids have been submitted.

Bidders are asked to take note of the Privacy Notice which identifies the personal data that will be collected as part of the application process, how this will be used, who it will be shared with, and the legal basis for its use.

Both ECC and Government notices can be found on our website under the Community Renewal Fund information [here](#).

**This information is issued by:**

Essex County Council

**Contact us:**

[economic.growth.team@essex.gov.uk](mailto:economic.growth.team@essex.gov.uk)

[www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

The information contained in this document can be translated,  
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