

South Ayrshire Community Renewal Fund

Information Update Webinar

May 2021



Making a Difference Every Day 

South Ayrshire Community Renewal Fund

- Introduction.
- Aim.
 - Provide an overview of the opportunity
 - Indication of local challenges/priorities
- Process Timeline.
- How to Make an Application.
- What We Expect.
- Questions.

Community Renewal Fund

UK Government

- Preparation for Future Prosperity Fund to Replace European Structural Funds
- £220M available for Developing Skills, Local Business, Community and Place and Employment – aimed at supporting communities most in need
- 100 Priority Places across UK
- Up to £3M of projects in each place

South Ayrshire Council

- South Ayrshire is one of 100 regions selected by the UK Government
- SAC Dual Role – Lead Organisation for the area and as an Applicant in its own right
- As a Lead - issue invitation, receive bids, select priority, submit proposal, pay grant and monitor/report progress
- As Applicants – develop good quality proposals that will meet the assessment criteria

UKCRF Priorities

UK Government Priorities

- Must Support Economic Development
- Should contribute to Net Zero and Environmental Objectives.
- Must fit with Public Sector Equality Duty.
- Must address one or more UK Government themes
 - Investment in skills
 - Investment for local business
 - Investment in communities and place
 - Supporting people into employment

The Fund will support innovative responses to local challenges and local needs, and proposals that test greater integration of different and new types of interventions

UKCRF Potentials

- **Investment in Skills**
 - Work-based training
 - Retraining, upskilling or reskilling workforce
 - Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion.
- **Investment for Local Business**
 - Supporting entrepreneurs and in-work progression or to take on new employees .
 - Encouraging businesses to develop their innovation potential
 - Supporting decarbonisation measures.
- **Investment in Communities and Place**
 - Feasibility studies for delivering net-zero and local energy projects
 - Exploring opportunity for promoting culture-led regeneration and community development
 - Improving green spaces and preserving important local assets
 - Promoting rural connectivity
- **Supporting People into Employment**
 - Supporting people to engage with local services which support them on their journey towards employment
 - Raising aspirations, supporting to find sustainable employment
 - Supporting people to gain the basic skills they need to develop their potential for sustainable work
 - Testing what works in helping people move towards work

Local Priorities for South Ayrshire Applications

South Ayrshire Council welcomes bids that demonstrate innovation in service delivery, in line with the above investment priorities, and which focus on two of our Council commitments:

- 1. South Ayrshire Works: Make the most of the local economy**
- 2. A Better Place to Live: Enhanced environment through social, cultural and economic activities**

1. South Ayrshire Works: Make the most of the local economy

- Our local economies present real opportunities for innovative interventions. These tend to be distinctive, shaped by their environment and location. It is vital to bring more people into the economy and support good place making and locally-led investments.
- We welcome projects that provide a tailored response to these factors.

2. A Better Place to Live: Enhanced environment through social, cultural and economic activities

- We welcome projects that deliver against the Community Renewal Fund Investment Priorities to support economic prosperity linked to town, rural and coastal vitality.
- Our local economy has a huge part to play in place-based growth and prosperity and tackling the impacts of COVID-19.
- We are inviting proposals that demonstrate innovation in tackling town centre decline, reinvigorating high streets, creating opportunities and tackling deprivation in South Ayrshire's rural and coastal areas, and meeting the needs of a locally driven, green and digital economy.

UKCRF Application Process

Application is in Two Phases

Phase 1, stage 1:

- Setting up application process and obtaining proposals
- Reviewing proposals for submission to the UK Government
- Submitting Proposal

Phase 1, stage 2:

- UK Government assesses proposal
- Provides an accept/reject decision
- SAC informs applicants of the outcome

Phase 2

- A monitoring framework is established and implemented
- Project starts, following decision by UK Gov
- Project delivery

Key Dates

UK Government announces CRF

Phase1:

- Application Process developed/published by SAC April 2021;
- Local Application deadline: Noon **24th May**.
- Local applications assessed and clarified – applicant notified of progress
- South Ayrshire proposal submitted to UK Gov – **18th June**

Phase 2:

- July/August – dependent on UK Gov.
- Project delivery **complete by 31st March 2022**

UKCRF Assessment/Outcomes

- Gateway Criteria
- Is the applicant eligible to apply?
- Does it fit with national and local priorities?
- Is it eligible activity?
- Does it duplicate existing activity?
- Is there a conflict with national policy?
- Would the removal of ineligible activity make it a viable project?
- Will it be delivered by 31st March 2022?
- Specific Criteria
- How well does the proposal contribute to local need?
- Is it deliverable?
- Does the budget reflect the activities?
- Are the stated outputs relevant/achievable?
- Does it achieve 'additionality'?
- What equalities impacts have been taken into account?

There are no surprises.

The Prospectus sets out all the criteria

Follows UK Government format for applications for public funding.

Further Information: Key Documents and Links:

The CRF Prospectus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus>

South Ayrshire Information:

<https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/28375/UK-Community-Renewal-Fund>

Questions and Applying in South Ayrshire

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UK Government Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-additional-documents/levelling-up-fund-frequently-asked-questions>

Discussion and Questions