

Executive Decision Report

Community Renewal Fund

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor

Decision to be taken on: 29 November 2021

Lead director: Mike Dalzell



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All wards
- Report author: Joanne Ives
- Author contact details: 37 2934
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

1.1. This report is seeking approval to accept funding from the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) supporting 5 projects within the city of Leicester to help build skills, support local businesses and communities and provide employment support.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Accept the Community Renewal Fund award of £2.9m and agree for the City Council to act as accountable body.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

Background

- 3.1 The Community Renewal Fund is a short term, largely revenue programme which is a precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity fund (that will ultimately replace EU funding). Leicester was identified as one of the 100 priority areas for the fund and could submit up to £3m worth of applications to government to deliver activities that invest in skills, local business, communities and place, and support people into employment.
- 3.2 Following a call by Leicester City Council, 29 applications were received in response to the opportunity. Of these, 5 projects were shortlisted for inclusion in the Leicester's funding proposal, forming a £2.9m package of projects. These shortlisted applications were as follows:

Organisation	Project Activities	Funding Allocation
Leicester City Council	Textile sector support	£500,000
East Midlands Chamber	Business support	£1,000,000
Twin Training	Providing Pre-Entry ESOL	£500,000
Zinthyia Ganeshpanchan Trust	Support for women into employment / self employment.	£349,588
BYCS	BAME targeted Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)	£584,230
	Total	£2,933,818
	Management Costs	£58,676
	Total Costs	£2,992,494

- 3.3 A combined application with supporting documentation was submitted on the 17th June 2021 to the Department of Levelling Up and Housing Communities (DLUHC) to the value of £2.9m, which was within the £3m limit allowable.

Although decisions were initially due to be announced after the end of July 2021, the announcement of the funding was not announced until 5th November 2021.

3.4 Overall the projects will deliver the following:

- 711 - *People in education/training following support*
- 771 – *gaining a qualification*
- 459 – *engaged in job-searching following support*
- 620 - *engaged in life skills support following interventions*
- 43 - *Economically inactive individuals engaging with benefits system following support*
- 52 - *People in employment, including self-employment, following support*
- 851 – *Jobs Safeguarded*
- 60 - *Employment increase in supported businesses*
- 20 - *Number of new businesses created as a result of the support*
- 10 - *Organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity*
- 40 - *Decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support*

3.5 In Great Britain submissions were received from 110 lead authorities totaling 993 bids; 83 bids were submitted from organisations in Northern Ireland. In total 1,073 bids were received.

Nation	Eligible Bids Assessed	Bids Selected	Total Value of Bids Selected	% of Overall Funding
England	612	225	£125.76m	62%
Scotland	176	56	£18.32m	9%
Wales	185	165	£46.85m	23%
Northern Ireland	73	31	£12.36m	6%

3.6 £220 million of UK Community Renewal Fund has been awarded to 225 projects, of which Leicester successfully secured all of the 5 projects submitted. A summary of funding secured by areas in the East Midlands is as follows.

Area	Number of Projects	Awarded
Derbyshire County Council	2	£1,999,157
Leicester City Council	5	£2,992,464
Lincolnshire County Council	2	£816,998
North East Lincolnshire Council	5	£1,295,406
Nottingham City Council	4	£2,879,496
Nottinghamshire County Council	4	£3,945,720

3.7 Whilst the emphasis was for projects from priority areas, non priority areas were allowed to submit applications. 65% of national CRF funding has been awarded to priority areas and 35% to non-priority areas.

4. Details of Scrutiny

Scrutiny updates April 2021, June 2021, October 2021

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

As outlined in the report, the funding being received totals £2,992k. Of this, £500k will be used by the Council to finance the Textile Sector Support project, with a further £59k to cover the cost of acting as accountable body for the four other organisations running projects.

Stuart McAvoy – Principal Accountant

5.2 Legal implications

The Authority will need to comply with the obligations in the e CRF Funding. Legal advice has been provided in this respect.

The use of the funding and the grant awards of the funding to Recipients will need to reflect the requirements on the Authority (and step-down obligations where appropriate) under the CRF Funding terms. In addition, subsidy control assessment for respective projects has been undertaken, details of which will need to be provided for in the CRF Funding Agreement prior to signing up.

The CRF Funding Agreement explicitly requires a project delivery funding agreement be in place between the Authority and the Recipient(s) in respect of each project to secure the respective rights and obligations of the Recipients before passing of any funds.

Mannah Begum, Principal Solicitor (Commercial, Property & Planning) ext 37 1423

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

Businesses are responsible for around 34% of Leicester's carbon emissions, not including their share of transport emissions. Following the council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and its goal to achieve carbon neutrality within the city, tackling these emissions is vitally important. As such, opportunities to do so should be sought through government funding schemes. As noted within this report, one of the target outcomes is to support 40 organisations to develop decarbonisation plans, which should deliver a positive impact through enabling a reduction in emissions. Where appropriate, further opportunities to support decarbonisation should also be considered as part of all projects, for example through the training and support offered.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

5.4 Equalities Implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities have statutory duties, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions they have to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. In doing so, the council must consider the possible impact on those who are likely to be affected by the recommendation and their protected characteristics.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

If approval is given for the sign-off of the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) agreement supporting 5 projects within the city of Leicester it should lead to positive impacts for people from across a range of protected characteristics. The report does not explore in any detail the protected characteristics of those benefitting from the 5 projects and going forward equality considerations need to be embedded and addressed appropriately and equality monitoring put in place.

Further guidance can be sought from the Corporate Equalities Team.

Sukhi Biring, Equalities Officer, 0116 454 4175

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which apply?)

6. Background information and other papers:

Economic Development, Tourism and Transport Scrutiny 17th January 2019 – Business support paper

7. Summary of appendices:

None

8. Is this a private report (if so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

No

10. If a key decision please explain reason

N/A