

# UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) 2021-22

## Greater Manchester Call for Bids Webinar

### 15 April 2021

# Webinar objectives and introduction to the UKCRF

Simon Nokes, Executive Director: Policy and Strategy

# Webinar objectives

- Introduce the UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) and GMCA's role as Lead Authority
- Highlight the four national investment priorities, and our local investment priorities within these
- Share application information and the bid assessment process
- Explain the timetable and practical steps for bidders
- Provide an opportunity for questions

# Introduction to the UKCRF

- The UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF) is a UK Government (UKG) programme for 2021/22. It aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches **to prepare for and inform the development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**. It will invest in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment.
- GMCA has been identified by the UKG as the 'lead authority' for Greater Manchester. That means GMCA is responsible for running a 'Call for Bids', appraising bids and submitting a shortlist to the UKG. We will also contract manage successful bidders. **The UKG makes final decisions about which projects are funded.**
- We are keen to ensure UKCRF projects **support both national investment priorities and identified local needs:**
  - We have set out a range of 'local priorities' for the Fund (both cross-cutting and thematic) which are relevant across the whole of GM.
  - We have also set out more specific priorities relating to the needs of the economies of the four GM areas designated by the UKG as 'priority places'.



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# Local priorities linked to UKG's four investment priorities

**Cross-cutting** – Simon Nokes, Executive Director: Policy and Strategy

**Skills** – Gemma Marsh, Director: Education, Skills and Work

**Local Business** – John Wrathmell, Director: Economy, Strategy and Research

**Communities and Place** – Alison Gordon, Assistant Director: Place

**Employment** – Mat Ainsworth, Assistant Director: Education, Skills and Work

**Environment and Net Zero** – Sean Owen, Head of Low Carbon

# Cross-cutting Local Priorities

## GM-wide cross-cutting priorities include:

- Contributing to our **carbon neutrality and environmental objectives**, through projects which support the accelerated delivery of the GM Five-Year Environment Plan (more later).
- **Tackling inequalities**, through projects which respond to the findings of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission.
- **Delivering Social Value**, through projects that help deliver the aims of the GM Social Value Framework.

## 'Priority place' cross-cutting priorities include:

- **Bolton** are keen to see bids referring to the Bolton Vision and Bolton Economic Strategy with a clear understanding of the district, a place-based presence and clear contribution to environmental goals.
- **Manchester** are keen to see projects focussed in North Manchester, the area of the city with the highest concentrations of poverty and the ability to deliver transformational change.
- **Oldham** are keen to see projects which support economic recovery and projects which are aligned with the Town Investment Plan for Oldham Town Centre.
- **Rochdale** are keen to see bids which develop capacity within the VCS sector, and which focus on the College Bank/Lower Falinge and Heywood areas.

# National Priority One: Investment in Skills

## Government examples:

- Work-based training
- Retraining, upskilling or reskilling members of the workforce
- Promoting the advancement of digital skills and inclusion

## Priorities across GM include:

### Sectors

- GM 'frontier sectors'
- Foundational economy/high employment sectors

### Groups

- Older workers and people with disabilities and/or health conditions
- Furloughed workers and those facing possible redundancy
- Low-paid workers, self-employed or those in insecure jobs
- Women returners
- Young people
- People facing digital exclusion
- Any other groups identified by the GM Inequalities Commission

## 'Priority place' priorities include:

- **Bolton** - Young people not in education, employment or training, careers advice, and the construction sector
- **Manchester** - Work-based training to upskill or reskill, adult skills training for key local opportunities and growth sectors, digital skills and inclusion, and basic skills
- **Oldham** - Skills support linked to business growth or securing existing firms
- **Rochdale** - Engineering skills and young people's job readiness



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# National Priority Two: Investment for Local Business

## Government examples:

- Supporting entrepreneurs and helping businesses with potential to create more job opportunities for current employees or take on new employees
- Encouraging businesses to develop their innovation potential
- Supporting de-carbonisation measures

## Priorities across GM include:

- Support economic recovery, including:
  - Support resilience in the foundational economy
  - Help businesses affected by CV-19 to transition to new models/ markets
  - Business and enterprise development capacity, inc. relating to net zero
  - Develop and deepen local supply chains and business networks
  - Create good quality jobs, in line with the GM Good Employment Charter
- Support delivery of Innovation for Growth through the vision set out in the Innovation Greater Manchester framework

## 'Priority place' priorities include:

- **Bolton** - Carbon reduction investments, business start-up and innovation, and town centre recovery
- **Manchester** - Commercial opportunities of the healthy neighbourhood component of North Manchester General Hospital campus
- **Oldham** - Start-up and innovation support (esp. for social enterprises) and post-Covid resilience of businesses
- **Rochdale** - Support for advanced manufacturing, innovation and SME resilience



# National Priority Three: Investment in Communities and Place

## Government examples:

- Feasibility studies for delivering net-zero and local energy projects
- Exploring opportunities for promoting culture-led regeneration and community development
- Improving green spaces and preserving important local assets
- Promoting rural connectivity

## Priorities across GM include:

- High street, town and city centre reopening, renewal and reanimation - supporting reopening and diversification in a Covid-safe way or a way that will increase attractiveness, confidence and footfall, and diversify uses.

## 'Priority place' priorities include:

- **Bolton** - Tackling digital poverty and exclusion and supporting community culture and community green space.
- **Manchester** - Culture led regeneration, public service collaboration and green space improvement (inc. Heaton Park and Lower Irk Valley).
- **Oldham** - Supporting new and growing business-to-consumer companies, especially those which support town centre reinvigoration and regeneration.
- **Rochdale** - Culture-led regeneration and local green space improvements.

# National Priority Four: Supporting People into Employment

## Government examples:

- Supporting people to engage with local services which support them towards employment
- Identifying and addressing potential barriers individuals may face in gaining employment or moving closer to the labour market
- Raising aspirations, supporting individuals to access Plan for Jobs employment support, jobs and find sustainable employment
- Supporting people to gain the basic skills they need for sustainable work
- Testing what works to help people move towards employment

## Priorities across GM include:

- Supporting vulnerable and excluded groups of people towards, to gain or to progress in good work, for example by:
  - Extending the eligibility of existing programmes
  - Targeted support for priority groups
  - Testing multi-agency, place-based approaches
  - Supporting people to gain basic skills
  - Reducing financial poverty by providing advice and supporting people to claim welfare benefits

## 'Priority place' priorities include:

- **Bolton** – Addressing barriers like digital poverty and exclusion at a neighbourhood level and access to work experience for people ineligible for existing schemes.
- **Manchester and Oldham** – Self-employment and entrepreneurship as ways of helping people into work.
- **Rochdale** - Support for people outside mainstream employment services and those on low pay.

# Strategic National Priority: Environment and Net Zero

The UK Government's Net Zero ambitions represent a key pillar in their commitment to build back better. The UK Community Renewal Fund Prospectus is clear that:

- **Investment made under this Fund** should be able to demonstrate the extent of contribution to net zero objectives or wider environmental considerations.
- **Projects should be based on low or zero carbon best practice**, adopt and support innovative clean tech where possible and support the growing skills and supply chains in support of Net Zero where possible.
- **As a minimum**, investment under this fund should meet the clean growth principle and must not conflict with the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.
- **To support green growth**, bids should also consider how projects can work with the natural environment to achieve project objectives, and – at a minimum – consider the project's impact on our natural assets and nature. For further information see the [Enabling a Natural Capital Approach \(ENCA\) resources](#).

**This guidance is not applicable to interventions focused on supporting people into employment. Please read the [UKCRF Prospectus](#) to find out more about the UKG's assessment criteria.**



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# Environment and Net Zero: Regional Priorities



- More renewable energy generation and storage
- More low carbon heat



- Reduced emissions from transport
- Increased EV infrastructure
- More active travel



- Greater energy efficiency in industry
- Increased retrofit of domestic, public, commercial and retail buildings
- More clean technology innovation
- Reduced waste/material use



- Enhanced biodiversity
- Improved air, water and land quality
- Improved adaptation to climate change impacts through natural solutions
- Improved access to quality green spaces

The above could include: feasibility studies for smart low carbon infrastructure and retrofit investment (all building types), business support activities, innovation research, green skills development and awareness/behavioural change.

# Application information and procurement process

**Application information** – Andy Hollingsworth, Head of Devolution Strategy

**Procurement process** – Bushra Dawood, Associate Partner: Procurement and  
Contract Management

# Key information

- **Bid Size.** GMCA will consider bids of any size, although UKG guidance expresses a preference for larger projects of £500k+ where possible.
- **Bid Type.** CRF is 90% revenue funding and 10% capital funding.
- **Timelines.** Winning bids will be announced by the UKG from late July 2021. All project activity, spend and outputs must be complete by the end of March 2022.
- **Available funding.** GMCA will shortlist projects totalling up to £3m per local authority area (in practice £2.913m plus a 2-3% management fee).
- **Eligible bidders.** Any legally constituted organisation can bid. Multiple organisations can bid as a partnership to deliver UKCRF projects (though one must be the 'lead bidder').
- **Priority places.** Four GM districts are UKG 'priority places': Bolton, Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale. Bids for projects in those places are more likely to be approved by the UKG.
- **UKG Guidance is King.** The UKCRF is a national programme. You must read and understand national guidance. You must also be comfortable with the fact that further guidance will follow.

# How bids will be assessed

There is a two-stage appraisal and assessment process:

1

GMCA (as the 'lead authority') will **appraise all submitted bids**. GMCA is required by UKG to submit a **shortlist of projects of no more than £3m per local authority area**.

- Our detailed appraisal approach is set out in the Call, but broadly we will complete Due Diligence, check against Gateway Criteria, and then follow UKG Assessment Criteria. Where we need further criteria to reduce our shortlist to below £3m, we will consider contribution to local need and total overall score.

2

UKG will then **assess all bids submitted by GMCA** (and other lead authorities). The final decision about which projects are funded sits with the UKG, with announcements from July 2021 onwards.



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# Timeline

Issue of Call for Bids the CHEST	9 April 2021
Deadline for return of bids	4pm, 14 May 2021
GMCA completes appraisal and submits shortlist to UKG for consideration	18 June 2021
UKG takes final funding decisions	Late-July 2021
Issue of intent to award letters*	August 2021
Issue final funding agreements*	Early Sept 2021
Commence implementation*	Early Sept 2021
Projects complete (activity and financially)	31 March 2022

\*Please note that these dates are indicative and subject to UKG's decision making timescales



# Bidding process

- More information on the UKCRF in Greater Manchester can be found on the [GMCA website](#).
- Please ensure that **all documentation** specified in the **Greater Manchester Invitation to Submit Project Bids** is read before your bid is submitted. This can be accessed via [The Chest](#) portal (Ref DN535893) - **registration required**.
- Bids must be submitted using the [UKCRF Application Form](#) that can be downloaded from the UKG website. Bids in any other format will **not** be accepted. Please ensure that prior to submission you have checked that you are using the **latest version** of the application form.
- Bidders must **also complete and return the GMCA Due Diligence form (accessible on [The Chest](#))** and upload it with their submission.
- Bids must be submitted via [The Chest](#) portal (Ref DN535893).
- Bids must be submitted by **4pm on Friday 14th May 2021**. We will **not** accept late bids.
- Please submit any questions via [The Chest](#).
- Should you have any problems uploading your response please contact ProActis directly on 0845 2930459 or [Procontractsuppliers@proactis.com](mailto:Procontractsuppliers@proactis.com)

# Management of clarification questions

- All questions relating to the Call for Bids must be submitted via **The Chest**.
- We aim to answer all questions posted via The Chest within **two** working days.
- To ensure transparency and fairness, the answers to questions raised will be published via The Chest Q&A section to ensure that all organisations are provided with the same information.
- The only exceptions will be questions marked as 'Confidential' – this is only applicable where a question relates directly to the bidder rather than a query about the tender process or documents. An assessment will be made of questions by Procurement and if not deemed to be of a confidential nature it will be replied to publicly.

# Checklist for bidders

- ✓ Double check you have completed all the documents.
- ✓ Be aware that word counts apply on many sections of the application form.
- ✓ Make sure your answers fulfil the requirements of the question - don't copy and paste information from other documents.
- ✓ Don't embed or attach anything we haven't asked for.
- ✓ Don't cross reference between answers.
- ✓ Allow enough time before the deadline to submit your return; submissions after the deadline will **not** be accepted.

# Q&A



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