

3 December 2021

REPORT SUMMARY SHEET

UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

Purpose

To update on the outcome of the UK Community Renewal Fund submission and seek approval for grant giving to the successful projects.

Summary

The UKCRF is a Government programme which is providing £220m of additional funding nationally with the aim to support innovative responses to local challenges and needs, including removing barriers that people face in accessing skills and labour market opportunities, building the evidence base for future interventions and exploring the viability of new ideas. This programme is a pilot programme to prepare for the more extensive UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Combined Authority were responsible for assessing and shortlisting bids into Government for the UKRCF, as lead authority for the Combined Authority area. A total of 30 bids were submitted to the Combined Authority in June 2021, of which 11 were [shortlisted](#) within the funding cap set by Government.

These projects will collectively support 115 people into education or training (including skills for green jobs), assist 300 people who are economically inactive, safeguard 50 jobs, create 40 decarbonisation plans and save over 2,500 tonnes of CO₂, alongside other outputs.

Recommendation

To approve grant giving to the successful UK Community Renewal Fund projects, as set out in the report.

Contact officer: Malcolm Coe

Position: Director of Investment & Corporate Services

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**REPORT TO: WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY
COMMITTEE**

DATE: 3 December 2021

REPORT TITLE: UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

**AUTHOR: MALCOLM COE, DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENT AND
CORPORATE SERVICES**

Purpose of Report

1. To update on the outcome of the UK Community Renewal Fund submission and seek approval for grant giving to the successful projects.

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

The funded UKCRF projects help support recovery by creating and safeguarding jobs and assisting people into education and training.

Recommendation:

To approve grant giving to the successful UK Community Renewal Fund projects, as set out in the report.

UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF)

2. The UKCRF is a Government programme which is providing £220m of additional funding nationally with the aim to support innovative responses to local challenges and needs, including removing barriers that people face in accessing skills and labour market opportunities, building the evidence base for future interventions and exploring the viability of new ideas. This programme is a pilot programme to prepare for the more extensive UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
3. The Combined Authority were responsible for assessing and shortlisting bids into Government for the UKRCF, as lead authority for the Combined Authority area. A total of 30 bids were submitted to the Combined Authority in June 2021, of which 11 were [shortlisted](#) within the funding cap set by Government. In November the bids that had been approved for funding by Government were announced, totalling £2.4m, as shown in Figure 1.
4. These projects will collectively support 115 people into education or training (including skills for green jobs), assist 300 people who are economically inactive,

safeguard 50 jobs, create 40 decarbonisation plans and save over 2,500 tonnes of CO₂, alongside other outputs.

5. The Combined Authority will be responsible for entering into funding agreements with these organisations, based upon the terms and conditions of the Government funding.

Project	Applicant	Project Value
Bath & North East Somerset Social Enterprise Programme (BSEP)	School for Social Entrepreneurs	£594,491
Futureproof: scaling up (expanding the market and supply chain for low carbon housing retrofit in the West of England)	Centre for Sustainable Energy	£113,098
Skills for Green Jobs and Entrepreneurship	University of the West of England	£760,475
South Gloucestershire Council Community Renewal Fund	South Gloucestershire Council	£950,000
Total		£2,418,064

Figure 1: UKCRF Projects Approved for Funding by Government

Consultation

6. The opportunity to apply for funding through the UKCRF was promoted widely by the Combined Authority.

Other Options Considered

7. The projects approved were selected by Government from those shortlisted.

Risk Management/Assessment

8. The terms and conditions in the funding agreement between Government and the Combined Authority will be reflected in the funding agreements with the four projects to mitigate risks around underperformance.

Public Sector Equality Duties

9. The projects will provide a range of benefits to support people into work and training, or to help them progress.

Finance Implications

10. The Combined Authority will contract with the successful projects on the basis of the funding awarded by Government. UKCRF lead authorities receive funding to

support the administration of the funding, which for the Combined Authority is £48k (2% of funds awarded to the projects).

Advice given by: Malcolm Coe, Director of Investment and Corporate Resources

Legal Implications

11. There are no additional legal implications arising from this report.

Advice given by: Shahzia Daya, Monitoring Officer, West of England Combined Authority

Climate Change Implications

12. The projects will deliver a number of environmental benefits including greenhouse gas savings.

Human Resources Implications

13. Funding is available to meet additional staff costs arising from the administration of the programme.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the contact officer for the meeting who is Ian Hird on 07436 600313; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk