

From: Roger Gough, Leader of the County Council
Stephanie Holt-Castle, Director – Growth & Communities

To: Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee – 1 July 2021

Decision No: N/A – For information only

Subject: **Decisions taken between Cabinet Committee Meetings**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: County-wide

Summary: The attached decision was taken between meetings of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee as it could not be reasonably deferred to the next programmed meeting of the Cabinet Committee for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.4 below.

Recommendation:

The Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee is asked to note that the following decision was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution:

21/00042: UK Community Renewal Fund: Bid Submission

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Leader of the Council has taken a decision (21/00042) to agree the submission to Government of a shortlist of UK Community Renewal Fund bids from Kent districts and for KCC to act as the accountable body for projects within Kent's geographical boundaries selected by the Government to receive UK Community Renewal Fund.
- 1.2 The decision was taken between meetings of the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee, as it could not reasonably be deferred.

2. Background to decision

- 2.1 In March 2021, the Chancellor announced the creation of a new Fund, called the UK Community Renewal Fund worth £220m.

- 2.2 The UK Community Renewal Fund, (UK CRF) which will run in 21/22 only, aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches to prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Bids were invited for projects focused on investment in skills, business, communities, place, supporting people into employment, and support for the decarbonisation agenda. Projects should also contribute towards the Government's net-zero carbon objectives and demonstrate that they are innovative pilot projects that will help shape, mould, and influence the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which we understand will be rolled-out from 2022 onwards, and will replace EU funding streams. Full details about the fund are available at:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus> and
 - www.kent.gov.uk/ukcommunityrenewalfund
- 2.3 Whilst UK Government has included four districts (Canterbury, Gravesham, Swale and Thanet) within its 100 priority places for the deployment of this Fund across the UK, the Fund's prospectus makes clear that bids will be accepted from every single district within the UK, and that multi-district bids are also eligible to apply.
- 2.4 The Government designated County Councils (such as KCC) and Unitary Authorities as the lead authorities for administering the call for UK CRF projects on its behalf. Lead authorities were instructed to invite bids, collaborate, and engage with a range of local partners to appraise and prioritise a shortlist of projects for every place (each district/borough area) with submission by 18 June. It is this timescale that has required the decision to be taken before discussion at this Cabinet Committee. The value of each shortlist must be capped at £3 million.
- 2.5 All bids were considered by a Local Panel which included District/Borough representation/representative and local MP/MPs/representatives, FE/HE sector, Chamber of Commerce, and the Voluntary or Community Sector
- 2.6 If bids are successful, the outcomes will address the follow challenges set out in the interim Strategic Plan
- The economic challenge: this activity attracts investment to support growth
 - The partnership challenge: through collating the bids from partners, this Fund presents important opportunities to build on strengthened relationships.
 - The environmental challenge: project bids will demonstrate a contribution to the net-zero carbon objectives or wider environmental considerations.

3. Recommendation(s)

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21/00042: UK Community Renewal Fund: Bid Submission

4. Background Documents

- 21/00042 Record of Decision
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2487>
- Full details about the fund are available at:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-community-renewal-fund-prospectus> and
- www.kent.gov.uk/ukcommunityrenewalfund
- Bid shortlist

Contact details	Relevant Director
Report Author Theresa Warford, Staff Officer Theresa.warford@kent.gov.uk 03000 417192	Stephanie-Holt Castle Director, Growth & Communities Stephanie.holt-castle@kent.gov.uk 03000 412064