

Report of the Town Clerk

Coastal Communities Fund

Background.

1. The Coastal Communities Fund Round (CCF) 5 is now open with £40 million available for spend from April 2019 to end of March 2021.
2. Funding goes to projects over £50,000 that will ultimately lead to regeneration and economic growth whilst directly or indirectly safeguarding and creating sustainable jobs.
3. The following types of organisations can apply to the CCF in England: • Coastal Community Teams • Local Authorities • Other public sector bodies • Charities • Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations • Social enterprises, including co-operatives and community ownership initiatives • Private sector companies • Local Enterprise Partnerships. Applications are welcome from Coastal Community Teams (CCTs) where the application is submitted by a legally constituted body or lead partner. Applications from areas with a Coastal Community Team (CCT) must provide a letter from their CCT showing support for the project, or tell us why this is not appropriate to their bid.
4. Applications can only be accepted from formally constituted organisations that have a minimum of three unrelated members on their governing body, management committee or board of directors. Unconstituted organisations should apply through an appropriate and constituted accountable body that can take responsibility for the funding and delivery of the project.
5. Government is more likely to fund projects that can demonstrate a strong link to local strategies and plans, and that are complementary to what others are doing in the area. Applicants should show how their project links to relevant strategies and plans. These should include the Coastal Community Team (CCT) Economic Plan, if the project is located in a CCT area. In areas where there is no CCT, these could include the Strategic Economic Plan developed by the Local Enterprise Partnership, Local Authority plans and neighbourhood plans.

6. Government is particularly interested in projects that will:
 - deliver economic diversification and innovation that will create employment opportunities in knowledge economy and higher value sectors
 - support improvements in productivity in the coastal economy through projects promoting investment in innovation, infrastructure or skills provision that will improve the outputs and performance of coastal businesses
 - provide support for small and medium sized enterprises through business development support, improvements to infrastructure and targeted incubation support where there is strong evidence of demand and where these do not duplicate provision funded elsewhere
 - address seasonality by creating new patterns of demand for tourism, establishing unique selling points and distinctive market niches in the visitor economy across a greater proportion of the year
 - deliver improvements to public places that will increase the number of visitors, generate direct and indirect employment opportunities, and make coastal communities more attractive places to live and work
 - support the delivery of jobs and economic growth through integrated regeneration initiatives which include, where appropriate, addressing the issues of flooding, coastal erosion risk management or bathing water quality which threaten the development of the coastal economy. Where proposals involve flooding and coastal erosion risk management schemes or bathing water quality initiatives, these must be supported by the relevant Coastal Protection Authority (for erosion) or the Environment Agency (for flooding/ bathing water standards).
7. Timescales are tight, but predictable given that this is the fifth round of coastal communities funding. Government expect capital projects applying to CCF to be at an advanced stage of development. For most capital projects this means the project should be at RIBA Stage 4 when submitting your stage two application. RIBA stages are a recognised plan of work formed by the Royal Institute of British Architects that describes the activities at each stage of a construction project. A project at RIBA Stage 4 [Technical Design stage] will have a fully developed project brief, undertaken all relevant surveys and have a suitable level of design/cost information.
8. Projects seeking over £100,000 from CCF for capital work involving land, buildings or other construction – related work should ideally have secured full Planning Consent (including any Listed Building and Conservation Area consents) by the stage one application deadline. At the very least, projects should have submitted an application for full Planning Consent by the stage one deadline, in order to be able to meet CCF timescales and requirements at stage

two. By the stage two application deadline, capital projects should be developed to RIBA Stage 4, have achieved full Planning Consent (including any Listed Building and Conservation Area consents), building regulations full plans approval and have consulted on any other consents (such as Marine Licence, Crown Estates Consent, Harbour Licence etc).

Recommendation

1. Members are invited to note the report.