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**UK Community Renewal Fund**

**Devon County Council**



The CRF was likely to inform how the future UK Shared Prosperity Fund is shaped, therefore DCC was committed to perform well and to deliver innovative and sustainable change.

A temporary structure was put into place to prevent any conflict of interest that may compromise any application:

- **Central Programme team**
- **The Appraisal team**
- **The Project Development team**

Tight deadlines - the project Development team worked closely with the potential bidders to help them identify the best projects for the area and to build sustainable partnerships in a very limited period of time

The £500,000 threshold combined with the short implementation period was challenging for the applicants

Devon County Council was one of the last to close the CRF call for applications – this put a lot of pressure on the appraisal team

Devon received 75 bids from which 29 passed the gateway criteria and 16 were ultimately submitted to government as Devon's CRF shortlist.



Devon County Council received £9.3 million to fund 13 projects through the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) and are now responsible for managing a large portfolio of innovative projects.

- Ability not Disability - co-designing an employment pathway
- Blue & Green Biosphere Natural Capital Accelerator (BGB)
- Devon Agri-Tech Accelerator (DATA)
- Devon Elevation Fund (DEF)
- Devon Enterprise Support Programme for Social Enterprises (DEPS)
- Devon Start and Grow
- Digital Devon
- Innovation for Youth & Community
- Promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Retrofit Skills and Business Accelerator
- Stronger Together
- The Eden Grounds
- VELOCITY: VCSE Devon



- Projects unable to start at risk on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November
- Signing off the contracts over the Christmas period was challenging
- Significant recruitment and subcontracting challenges in December- January so the actual project delivery window was reduced
- The match funding for some projects wasn't available anymore due to delayed contracting
- Lack of definitions of outputs/outcomes until 03/11/21 created issues.
- Outcomes and outputs amendments – dividing into short term outcomes and long term outcomes



The CRF Project Team developed the process in an agile and iterative manner

Work closely with our projects to help them achieve the best results maximise their impact

Acknowledge that CRF was built as a pilot therefore we are allowing projects to make amendments in the delivery where necessary

Keen to learn where we could make improvements under any future programmes



Some smaller organisations were excluded from bidding due to timescales and the minimum £500,000 threshold which would have posed too much of a challenge and a risk

The fact that most of the projects applied for a six months extension without requiring any additional funding is a clear indication that the forecasted project budgets were overestimated to cover the projects' risks (triggered by the very short implementation period)

Project applications were written without essential output/outcomes guidance – this resulted in project outcome/output variations



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Thank you for listening