



CRF in Norfolk and Suffolk

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Overview of CRF in Norfolk

- 4 Priority places: Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and West Norfolk, North Norfolk, Norwich
- 46 applications received
- 26 projects submitted to UK Gov. (£14m)
- 14 successful projects (Highest number in England)
- Totalling £6.2m of funding (4th highest amount awarded in UK)

Approach to CRF in Norfolk

Applications

- Team of 8 staff
 - Brought in from within NCC, and externally
- Released information through existing channels
- Facilitators worked with projects to craft applications
- Local objectives assigned on top of national

Appraisal

- Team of 8 different staff
- Used Central Government guidance to create scoring mechanism
 - Scoring based on 10 criteria
 - Created mechanism from previous experience
 - Included local criteria to ensure strategic fit
- Each project application appraised and moderated
- Moderation panel sat to review all appraisals
- Best projects for each area taken to boards for approval

Overview of CRF in Suffolk

- No "Priority Places" in Suffolk
- No capacity funding
- 12 applications received
- 11 applications submitted to government
- Two successful bids c£950k
 - Enabling Self-Employment in Suffolk
 - Suffolk Road to Net Zero Business Support
- One applicant – local enterprise partnership

Approach to CRF in Suffolk

- Targeted and proactive approach to potential applicants
- National rather than local criteria
- Two-stage appraisal process – using government scoring guidance
- Internal senior-level cross directorate panel to review all appraisals
- 12 applications received and 11 submitted
- Majority were county-wide rather than place-focused

CRF Delivery

Norfolk

- 14 successful applications
 - Mixture of public, private and VCSE organisations
 - Tailored payment schedules
- Shared evaluation
- Events for all projects

Suffolk

- 2 successful applications (1 applicant – Local Enterprise Partnership)
- Role of lead authority
 - Contracts & extensions
 - Monitoring (joint meetings with Norfolk CC)
 - Payments
 - Manage risk

Lessons learnt and reflections

#1 Partnership working and efficiencies

Need to have a pragmatic approach to developing, assessing, and managing projects - economies of scale.

- CRF "priority place" approach discouraged sub-regional projects, resulting in separate Norfolk & Suffolk bids
- This meant the applicant front loaded costs into the Norfolk bids.
- 2 separate assessment processes – costly and time consuming for lead authorities
- 2 contract and monitoring processes – ditto
- Very small management fee – did not cover staff costs

Lessons learnt and reflections

2 Timeframe

- Timeframe was too short
 - Ran into issues with purdah
 - Projects needed more time to make cohesive arguments
 - Volume of applications meant short appraisal period

3 Communication

- Lack of communication from DLUHC
 - Projects waiting for confirmations
 - Questions unanswered
 - Confusion?!