

## NORTHERN CULTURAL REGENERATION FUND

### Cumbria LEP Guidance notes

August 2017



### Background

The Government announced plans in November 2015 for a Great Exhibition of the North (<https://getnorth2018.com>). The Exhibition will take place in the summer of 2018 in Newcastle Gateshead, and will celebrate the great art, culture and design of the North of England. Alongside the Exhibition, the Government has announced £15 million for a legacy fund (the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund) to amplify the impact of the Exhibition and pave the way for future cultural investment in the North of England.

The Fund will make capital grants up to a total of £5 million in each of the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 and is open to bids from LEPs in the North of England. The following eleven LEPs are eligible to apply:

- Cheshire and Warrington
- **Cumbria**
- Greater Manchester
- Humber
- Lancashire
- Leeds City Region
- Liverpool City Region
- North East
- Sheffield City Region
- Tees Valley
- York, North Yorkshire and East Riding

The Fund will make three or four large capital grants over the three years of around £3-£4 million each. Decisions on these grants will be made by the end of the current financial year (2017-18) by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

### Application Process

Cumbria LEP is inviting **stage 1 applications** from businesses / organisations within the County for capital projects that align with the funding priorities set out below. Applicants should complete the bid proforma at Appendix 2. No additional or supporting information will be accepted. **The stage 1 application deadline is 12 noon on the 21 September.**

Following the stage 1 application deadline Cumbria LEP will evaluate, in accordance with our assurance framework, all applications received against the assessment criteria set out in Appendix 1 and identify a preferred applicant. Cumbria LEP will support the preferred

applicant to develop a full stage 2 application (including 5 case model business case), which will be submitted to the DCMS by the 30 November.

### **Applicant and Project Eligibility**

Applications must be for **capital** expenditure, i.e. costs that are capitalised in the grant recipient's accounts.

Funding sought should **not exceed £4 million** and should be for a single capital project.

Applications for funding must be for **a maximum of 70% of total project costs**.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how other project costs will be covered and the **long term financial sustainability of the project**

It is the applicant's responsibility to check that projects are **state aid compliant**, seeking legal advice if necessary. State aid is defined by the treaty establishing the European Commission as "any aid granted by a Member State which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods."

Funding may be requested to be drawn down in one or more of the years of the Fund (i.e. 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21). However, please note that any funding awarded will be available to be claimed only during the financial year(s) for which it is made, and not beyond. Before submitting a bid, please consider carefully whether your project schedule would enable you to claim within this timeframe. There will be tight restrictions on the profile of funding available over the three years and bidders will wish to assure themselves that expenditure is genuinely achievable in the years requested.

Please make it clear if any of the information contained in the application is of a commercial nature and should not be published or shared.

### **Funding priorities**

Bids submitted should contribute to both of the primary funding goals:

- Encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England
- Benefit areas in the North of England that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.

The Fund seeks to achieve these aims by supporting projects in the cultural and creative sector that make demonstrable, lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces.

Projects should lead to at least one the following outcomes:

- Increased opportunities for people, including children and young people, to experience and be inspired by culture and creativity.
- Better quality of life and wellbeing within local communities.
- More resilient and sustainable cultural and creative organisations.

- Innovative and effective partnerships between the cultural and creative sector and other sectors, especially digital and technology sectors.
- Increased investment and economic growth.
- Support for Cumbria LEP's Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan (available at [www.cumbrialep.co.uk](http://www.cumbrialep.co.uk))

### **Assessment Criteria**

Bids will be assessed against the criteria set out in Appendix 1 in accordance with Cumbria LEP's assurance framework.

In line with the overall aim of the Fund to encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in areas of the North of England that have historically had low levels of investment, bids are encouraged to maximise the impact of grants through partnership funding: this may encompass public and/or private investment, and grant and/or repayable finance.

Applications should demonstrate strategic fit with the Cumbria LEP Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan.

### **Application and Decision Timetable**

**12 noon on 21 September 2017** – Deadline for stage 1 applications to be submitted to Cumbria LEP

**22 September to 13 October** – Cumbria LEP evaluates bids and identifies preferred applicant

**16 October** – Preferred applicant contacted

**17 October to 28 November** - Stage 2 application developed by preferred applicant with support from Cumbria LEP

**30 November** – Deadline for final stage 2 application to be submitted to DCMS

**Late 2017** - Assessment of bids by DCMS officials

**Early 2018** - Consideration of bids, decision making and due diligence by DCMS Ministers

**By end March 2018** - Announcement of awards

**From April 2018** - Drawdown of Fund awards begins

### **Bid Proforma**

All bids must be submitted on the bid proforma supplied at Appendix 2. No additional or supporting information will be accepted with stage 1 applications.

The following guidance is given to assist in completion of the bid proforma:

**Project title:** This section should give the name of the project for which you are applying for funding.

**Total project costs/income:** Please provide a clear summary of the overall project costs and income streams.

**Funding sought:** Please set out the amount of Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund funding sought.

**Financial year funding sought:** Clearly state the year(s) in which funding would be drawn down. The value of the bid should not exceed £4 million, however applications in excess of this limit may be considered on an exceptional basis, depending on the quality of the bid. Funding will be available to be claimed only during the financial year(s) for which it is made, and not beyond. Some priority may be given to projects that can spend funding in 2018-19.

**Other project funding:** In this section you should indicate where other funding for the project is expected to come from. Please make it clear how the non-capital costs of bid will be fully funded. You should list other funding sources and the sums requested from each of them to cover the balance of the total project costs. Please say whether funding has been secured or, if you are at the application phase, when you expect to be informed of a decision. It is expected that successful bids will leverage additional public and private funds to maximise the impact of grants and demonstrate value for money. You need to demonstrate how the project will be financially sustainable in the long-term.

**Project overview:** This section should detail the scope of the project and the benefits that will be delivered as a result of its implementation. Where funding is sought for an element or phase of a much larger project or long-term development plan, please explain how this element sits within the larger project or development plan and what exactly a Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund grant would be paying for. Please also indicate whether the project is scalable should funding not be available at the requested amount.

**How does the project deliver against the Fund's primary goals and funding outcomes?** In this section, please address the project's delivery of the Fund's priorities and outcomes.

**Strategic Fit:** How does the project help deliver Cumbria LEP's Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan? Please note this section should be around 500 words maximum.

**Rationale for intervention in the local area:** In this section please provide evidence of the need for the project and the rationale for intervention in the local area, e.g. from consultations or other research. You should also mention any other evidence of the outcomes that will be delivered by the project and any evaluation that has been used to shape your proposals. Please note this section should be around 500 words maximum.

**Project costs:** This table should be used to show a breakdown of the eligible project costs.

**Project timescale:** This table should be used to show the key milestones and corresponding target dates from project start to completion.

**Project outputs:** Please detail the outputs that the project is expected to deliver (e.g. number of jobs created, increase in number of overnight stays).

**Delivery and risk:** This section should provide evidence of deliverability, capacity and risks, including details of bid partners, project governance and arrangements for monitoring and evaluation. Please note this section should be around 300 words maximum.

### **Submitting your bid**

The completed bid proforma must be received by Cumbria LEP no later than **12 noon on the 21 September 2017** and should be sent to the Cumbria LEP mailbox at [info@cumbrialep.co.uk](mailto:info@cumbrialep.co.uk). If you intend to submit a bid please let the LEP team know as soon as possible via this e-mail address.

### **Enquiries**

Please direct any enquiries to [info@cumbrialep.co.uk](mailto:info@cumbrialep.co.uk).

Please see Appendix 1 below.

## Appendix 1: Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Consideration	Available marks
<b>Fit with primary funding goals</b>	<p>Demonstration that proposed project will encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England and benefit areas that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to whether the proposed project is located in an existing known area of low cultural and creative investment, informed by indicators including Heritage Action Zones and Creative People and Places projects.</p>	10
<b>Delivery of desired outcomes</b>	<p>Demonstration that the proposed project will lead to at least one of the desired funding outcomes. How the project will help deliver the Cumbria LEP Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan.</p>	15
<b>Ambition and rational for intervention in the local area</b>	<p>A strong rationale for intervention including market failures and opportunities facing the area.</p> <p>Demonstration that proposed project is effective and will lead to a step change in cultural/creative infrastructure, facilities and/or provision.</p>	15
<b>Value for money</b>	<p>Explanation of how public and private funds have been leveraged to maximise impact.</p> <p>Clear explanation of costs, income streams and expected outputs, including long term financial sustainability.</p>	30
<b>Delivery and risk</b>	<p>Evidence of partnership strength and commitment.</p> <p>Robust assessment of deliverability, capacity and risks.</p> <p>Clear explanation of delivery routes, timeframes and key milestones.</p> <p>Strong arrangements for local transparency and accountability, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	30