

BRIEFING PAPER

Town Board for Crewe

Date of Meeting: 09th April 2021
Report Title: Levelling Up Fund
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1. Introduction

The Board has previously spoken about the Levelling Up Fund the Government announced at the 2020 Spending Review. There are also other funding opportunities through the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Community Ownership Fund.

The Government have produced a prospectus for each of these funds, which outlines further detail required, numbers of bids and the priority groupings. These documents can be found via the following links:

[Levelling Up Fund: prospectus](#)

[UK Community Renewal Fund: prospectus](#)

[Community Ownership Fund](#)

2. Government Summary

The following information contains an overview of these funds, that has been sourced from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-levelling-up-and-community-investments>

Overview

The UK government is committed to levelling up across the whole of the United Kingdom to ensure that no community is left behind, particularly as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

That is why we are now making the biggest changes to the way we support local economic growth in a decade, in order to regenerate our town centres and high streets, support individuals into employment, improve local transport links and invest in local culture, while giving communities a stronger voice to take over cherished local assets that might otherwise be lost.

This will involve the UK government decentralising power and working more directly with local partners and communities across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, who are best placed to understand the needs of their local areas and more closely aligned to the local economic geographies to deliver quickly on the ground.

To support these objectives, the UK government has launched three new investment programmes to support communities right across the

country. All share common challenges and opportunities, which the UK government is determined to address in collaboration with local partners. These new investment programmes are:

- The UK Community Renewal Fund
- The Levelling Up Fund
- The Community Ownership Fund

As we look towards the UK Shared Prosperity Fund next year, we are conscious of the need for an evolution of the way we support local economic growth so it can best support levelling up for the long term. The UK government will work with local partners throughout 2021 to develop an approach that delivers the infrastructure and regeneration priorities local leaders want to see in their area.

We will also be working with local businesses on the future role of Local Enterprise Partnerships. We want to ensure local businesses have clear representation and support in their area, in order to drive the recovery. We will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships over the coming months, with a view to announcing more detailed plans ahead of summer recess. This will also include consideration of Local Enterprise Partnership geographies.

Later this year we will provide further details on the Community Ownership Fund and publish an Investment Framework for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – the replacement to European Union structural funds – which will commence in 2022.

The UK Community Renewal Fund

The UK government is providing an additional £220 million funding through the UK Community Renewal Fund to help local areas prepare for the launch of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2022. This Fund aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches and will invest in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment.

The Levelling Up Fund

The £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

The Community Ownership Fund

The UK government is launching a new £150 million Community Ownership Fund to help ensure that communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can support and continue benefiting from the local facilities, community assets and amenities most important to them.