

## Government Coastal Revival Fund – a guide for churches

### **What is the fund?**

This government-sponsored fund will award £1 million pounds to secure a new future for iconic coastal buildings and assets.

Each application can bid for up to £50,000 to help fund either small capital works or feasibility studies that help identify a new role for these structures.

### **Is my church eligible?**

Churches are eligible to apply and have been successful in previous rounds. This fund is specifically targeted at heritage buildings, but you don't have to have a listed building to apply. Locally listed churches, or those in conservation areas, can make a strong case that they are heritage assets.

Heritage significance is one of the key criteria, as is being on the Heritage At Risk Register. If you are listed and/or on the HAR Register then quoting from your list description or at risk statement, both found through the Historic England website, would be helpful to your application.

The timetable – the deadline for applications is 5 July - will make this round of the fund most useful for churches that have proposals in place already, and where the funding from this fund will enable them to start. This is especially so for building projects that might be hard to deliver in the winter near the coast.

Any money allocated must be spent by 31 March 2019.

PCCs, formally constituted Friends groups, or another body formally associated with a church, can make an application. Alternatively you could apply through your local Coastal Community Team. Where the application is not from a Coastal Community Team, it should have demonstrable support from any Coastal Community Team for the area, the local community and relevant local authorities.

You can find out if your area has a Coastal Community Team through this map:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&mid=1FRZwZZOtLy5KqFziFId2oulAvZe\\_Lyh&ll=53.00573752978115%2C-1.9648418499999707&z=6](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&mid=1FRZwZZOtLy5KqFziFId2oulAvZe_Lyh&ll=53.00573752978115%2C-1.9648418499999707&z=6)

### **What should I mention in my application?**

The criteria are available in full here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-revival-fund-an-invitation-to-apply-for-funding>

You should make sure your application ties in with local priorities, not just the needs of your church building.

You will need to think about how you will demonstrate that your project, whether it is a capital project or a feasibility study, will contribute towards economic regeneration and boosting local communities. You might think about this in several ways:

- A feasibility study could show how your building could be adapted to provide for a specific local need such as a post office, shop, or events venue.
- Capital works might improve physical or intellectual accessibility, meaning that your church could be used by more people. Coupled with a plan of activities and events that will invite people in, this would show how it would make the church a benefit to the local area.
- Works to improve tourism, especially if these are done in tandem with a wider local tourism initiative, would fit the criteria of the fund.
- Works that would make the building weatherproof, warmer, more secure etc. as part of a longer-term plan to offer community or commercial facilities.
- Works that would make a church economically active, provide skills training, or a hub for start-ups, could well qualify too.

Remember, you don't have to deliver all of the benefits as part of the project you apply to the Fund for. This Fund can be part of a larger scheme of works, assuming you can carry out the works applied for within the given timeframe.

### **Key areas to cover**

1. Applicants are asked to explain the local value of the asset or site and why it would justify investment. The value does not need to be financial. It could be whether it has a listed status and whether it has been identified as 'at risk' by Historic England. It could be its potential contribution to the streetscape, attractiveness of the area as a place to live or visit etc.
2. Delivering a sustainable community benefit (though this may be realised at a later stage of larger projects/ schemes). Focus on how your project would provide a benefit to the local community, and not just to a limited number of individuals. For example, if the long-term aim of the project was to regenerate a particular building then, following the completion of the project, that building should be available for use by/open to the public.
3. Delivery of a sustainable economic benefit (though this may be realised at a later stage of larger projects/ schemes). Applicants are asked to set out how the project is intended to bring about economic improvements to the area and the scale of that impact. For example, improvements to a public space may bring in greater numbers of tourists, which could then provide additional custom for local businesses.

### **How to apply**

The application form is available

here: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/707708/Coastal Revival Fund 2018 application form.odt](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/707708/Coastal_Revival_Fund_2018_application_form.odt)