

Levelling Up Fund Application Form

This form is for bidding entities, applying for funding from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) across the UK. Prior to completing the application form, applicants should read the [LUF Technical Note](#).

The Levelling Up Fund Prospectus is available [here](#).

The level of detail you provide in the Application Form should be in proportion to the amount of funding that you are requesting. For example, bids for more than £10m should provide considerably more information than bids for less than £10m.

Specifically, for larger transport projects requesting between £20m and £50m, bidding entities may submit the Application Form or if available an Outline Business Case (OBC) or Full Business Case (FBC). Further detail on requirements for larger transport projects is provided in the [Technical Note](#).

One application form should be completed per bid.

Applicant & Bid Information

Local authority name / Applicant name(s)*: [Derry City & Strabane District Council](#)

**If the bid is a joint bid, please enter the names of all participating local authorities / organisations and specify the lead authority*

Bid Manager Name and position: [\(Natural Environment Regeneration Manager\)](#)

Name and position of officer with day-to-day responsibility for delivering the proposed scheme.

Contact telephone number: [Redacted]

Email address:

Postal address: [98 Strand Road, Derry](#)

Nominated Local Authority Single Point of Contact: [Redacted]

Senior Responsible Officer contact details: [Redacted]

Chief Finance Officer contact details: [Alfie Dallas](#)

Country:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

Please provide the name of any consultancy companies involved in the preparation of the bid:

For bids from **Northern Ireland applicants** please confirm type of organisation

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Ireland Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> Third Sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Sector Body | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Council | Other (please state) |

PART 1 GATEWAY CRITERIA

Failure to meet the criteria below will result in an application not being taken forward in this funding round

<p>1a Gateway Criteria for <u>all</u> bids</p> <p>Please tick the box to confirm that your bid includes plans for some LUF expenditure in 2021-22</p> <p><i>Please ensure that you evidenced this in the financial case / profile.</i></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>1b Gateway Criteria for private and third sector organisations in Northern Ireland bids only</p> <p>(i) Please confirm that you have attached last two years of audited accounts.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>(ii) Northern Ireland bids only Please provide evidence of the delivery team having experience of delivering two capital projects of similar size and scale in the last five years. (Limit 250 words)</p>	
<p>Brooke Park, Derry</p> <p>Council delivered the major restoration of this listed historic urban park in 2015. Building works included the construction of a new Café Pavilion (174m²), a new Contact Sports Centre (892m²), a Horticultural Training Centre (273m²) and the refurbishment of the existing listed Gate Lodge. External works included refurbishment of the listed masonry site boundary walls, the construction of a floodlit 3G MUGA, a large formal pond, play area, paths and paving, external lighting and extensive replanting planting works. The contract was completed on 19th August 2016 and had a total capital value of £6.2M (Ex. VAT).</p> <p>Brandywell Stadium</p> <p>Council are owners of the Brandywell Stadium, which acts the home ground of League of Ireland Premiership club Derry City FC. The stadium lacked any substantial capital investment over a thirty-year period. In late 2016, Council let a contract for the complete refurbishment of the stadium and grounds, consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demolition of existing West Stand & terracing and construction of new 1,500 covered spectator stand housing changing and club facilities (1,000m²), all to UEFA CAT 1 standard. ➤ A FIFA 2 Star artificial turf pitch, suitable UEFA level competition football. ➤ A new separate dog-racing track, covered stand and associated facilities. ➤ Extensive site works, including new car parking and site boundary walls. <p>The contract was completed on 1st March 2018 and the project had a total capital value of £7.4M (Ex. VAT).</p>	

PART 2 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ANALYSIS

2a Please describe how equalities impacts of your proposal have been considered, the relevant affected groups based on protected characteristics, and any measures you propose to implement in response to these impacts. (500 words)

Our project considers the inequalities of health and how Green Infrastructure can support health/well-being, regeneration/tourism and skills/job opportunities. We will comply with all legislative responsibilities and the proposed project should not discriminate against section 75 groups, in addition the project will increase access for more people to more parts of the park aligned to Council Equality Policy.

Health, diet and the climate emergency are wider social justice issues, impacting on the most vulnerable, lonely and poorer sections of society most. We are living with Covid, BREXIT & the Climate Emergency as we transition away from carbon dependency. We are committed to resilience and want to create a sustainable urban food system using Acorn Farm as a research, learning, employment, and sustainable food academy. Acorn Farm demonstrates the inter-connectivity of Green Infrastructure and how our natural environment can deliver a socially just green recovery in a post COVID world.

Building on the City Deal (see <https://www.derrystرابane.com/citydeal>), we believe that Acorn Farm will 'build back better' and unlock growing spaces to deliver on education/skills and green tourism opportunities.

Health & Well-being: The existing Food System is not sustainable or resilient. We also know that poor nutrition and diet are linked to health inequalities and as a consequence low academic achievement and economic inactivity. This is an endemic problem affecting our city region.

Our project embraces the principles of Permaculture. It is based on the core principles of (a) caring for the earth (b) caring for people and (c) fair share. See <https://www.permaculture.org.uk/knowledge-base/basics>. By adopting the ethics and applying these principles in daily life, it can help us make the transition to becoming a more just and healthier society.

Green Employment & Learning: Acorn Farm will create tremendous opportunities to link green infrastructure with people. It will address unemployment and skills gaps, unlocking eco-innovation, education, skills and employment using natural capital as a catalyst for green growth. This will be achieved through a Green Skills Academy. It is aligned to the City Deal's Skills and Employability Pathways. Acorn Farm as a venue will support (1) youth unemployment (2) persistent and long-term unemployment (3) economic inactivity and (4) addressing the 'skills match' experience by local employers.

Urban Growing Spaces: In moving towards a low carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient economy (by 2050), Acorn Farm as a venue will support academic research into the benefits of urban food growing systems with particular emphasis on equality of access to sustainable and healthy food for the most vulnerable in our community.

Agricultural practices are significant polluters and displace natural ecosystems. Acorn Farm will deliver innovative technological solutions to address food system challenges towards low emission and self-sustaining food production and will demonstrate how controlled agriculture environments works. It will also increase availability of urban food growing spaces.

When authorities submit a bid for funding to the UKG, as part of the Government's commitment to greater openness in the public sector under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, they must also publish a version excluding any commercially sensitive information on their own website within five working days of the announcement of successful bids by UKG. UKG reserves the right to deem the bid as non-compliant if this is not adhered to.

Please specify the weblink where this bid will be published:

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/levellingupfund>

PART 3 BID SUMMARY

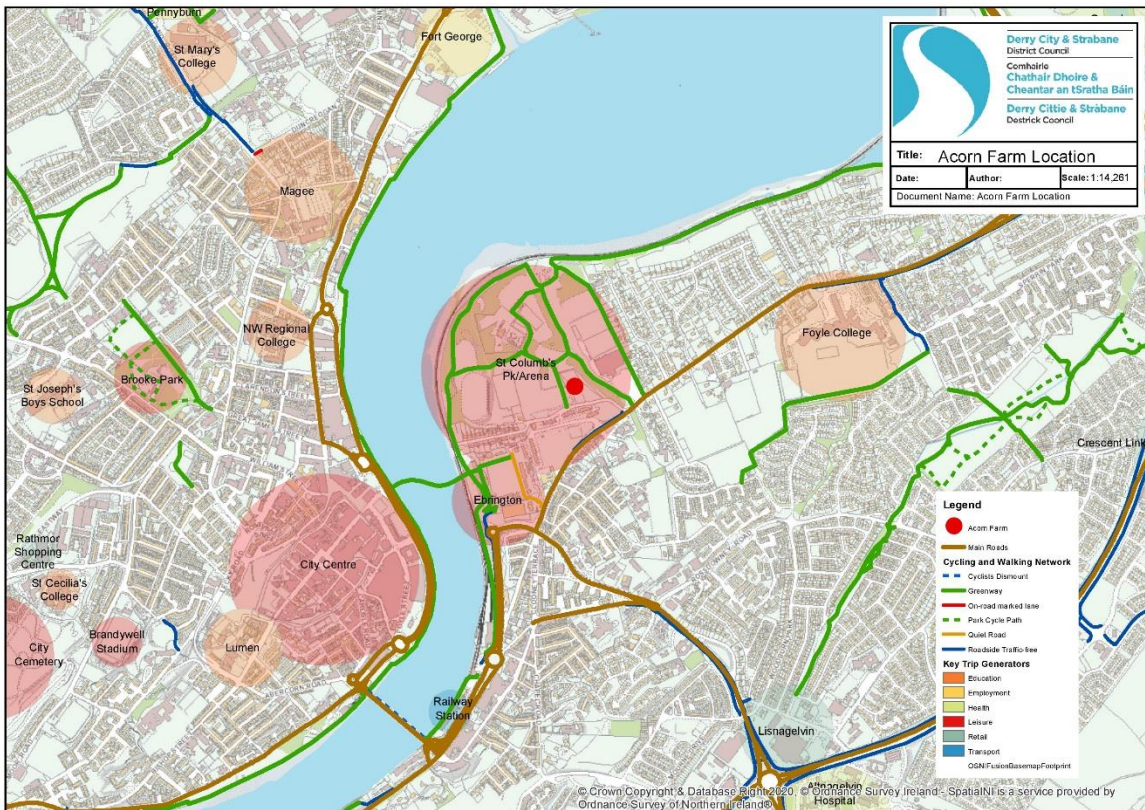
3a Please specify the type of bid you are submitting

Single Bid (one project)

Package Bid (up to 3 multiple complimentary projects)

3b Please provide an overview of the bid proposal. Where bids have multiple components (package bids) you should clearly explain how the component elements are aligned with each other and represent a coherent set of interventions (Limit 500 words).

The Acorn Farm project is located in a 70ac Council owned historic parkland in the Waterside of Derry/Londonderry (See location in the wider city context).



The Regeneration of St Columba's Park Masterplan was endorsed by Council in May 2016. Specifically, Acorn Farm's vision is to 'maximise the Park as a natural capital asset for the environmental, economic and social wellbeing of our community'. The lands to be developed are highlighted in red.

St Columb's Park

St Columb's Park is a 70 acre green space located in the City Centre on the east bank of the River Foyle. The park is an important green space for the city region which provides many benefits to people, biodiversity, supports the local economy and assists with responding to climate change.

At the heart of the park is the historic St Columb's Park House which dates back to the 1770's and is now a centre for Peace and Reconciliation.

For the past few years, Derry City and Strabane District Council, St Columb's Park House and The Acorn Fund have co-designed and co-developed this innovative masterplan which aims to develop St Columb's Park as a Green Infrastructure asset underpinned by eco-innovation, education, skills, peace building and green tourism.



St Columb's Park within Derry City Centre



St Columba's Park



St Columba's Park House

St Columba's Statue



The UKLUF will realise the longer term ambitions of our partnership to develop Acorn Farm.

The partnership; The Acorn Fund, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and University College Cork (UCC) secured a 'seed' grant (£200,000) from the NLCF through their UK Climate Action Fund.

This award considers the inter-connectivity and relationship between food, environment and the Food System. It addresses the challenge of food resilience and supports climate action. The project is delivering change at an individual and policy level, with food systems research and the development of the innovative urban food growing site Acorn Farm.

We want to develop Acorn Farm as a regional capital project exemplifying climate action and food growing innovation, skills development and learning.

St Columb's Park ~ Acorn Farm



Acorn Farm
 Acorn Farm is a social innovation project supporting employment through food production and urban agri-architecture. Using the principals of permaculture through design and iconic geodesic dome architecture, Acorn Farm will be a unique visitor attraction providing jobs as well as research and training opportunities.

Acorn Farm will see the development of Geodesic Domes (up to 10m high) set within a former MOD site. This proposition will embrace new and innovative technologies for local agri-architecture poly-dome food production. It will progress innovation in culinary gastronomic practices across the city. The bio-spheres will become a visitor destination in their own right.

Planning approval was granted in May 2019.

Acorn Farm, Photomontage

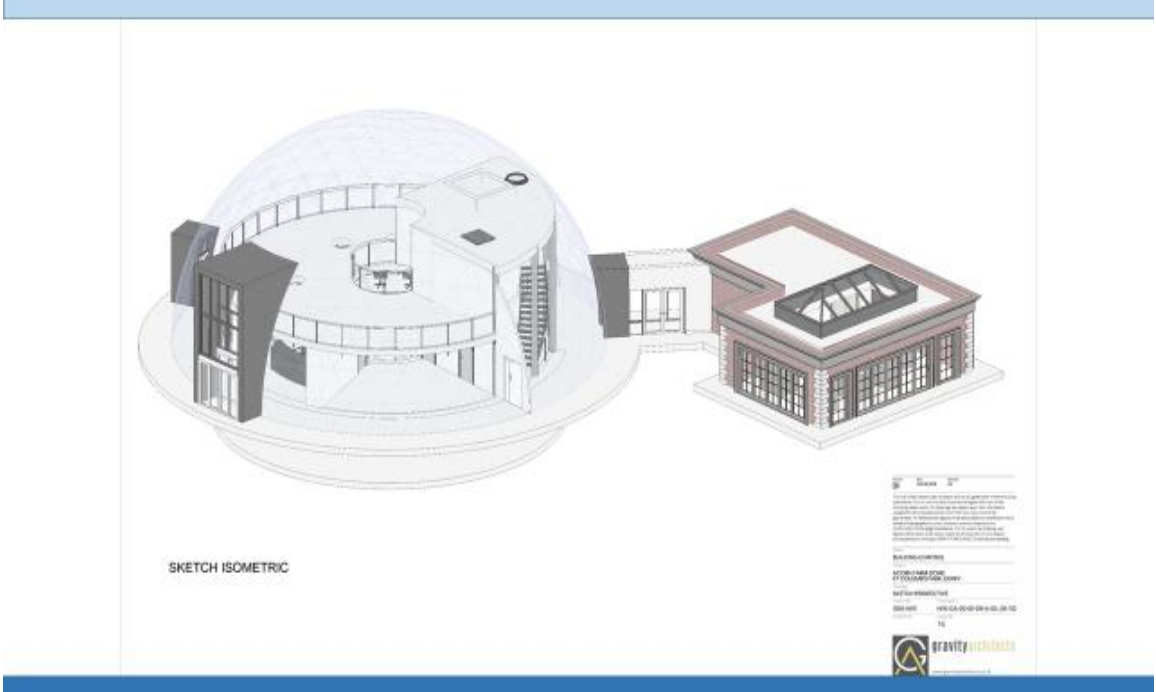
Left to right: Geodesic Dome, demonstration raised beds, willow tunnel and polytunnel.

There are 2 elements to our bid. These are as follows:

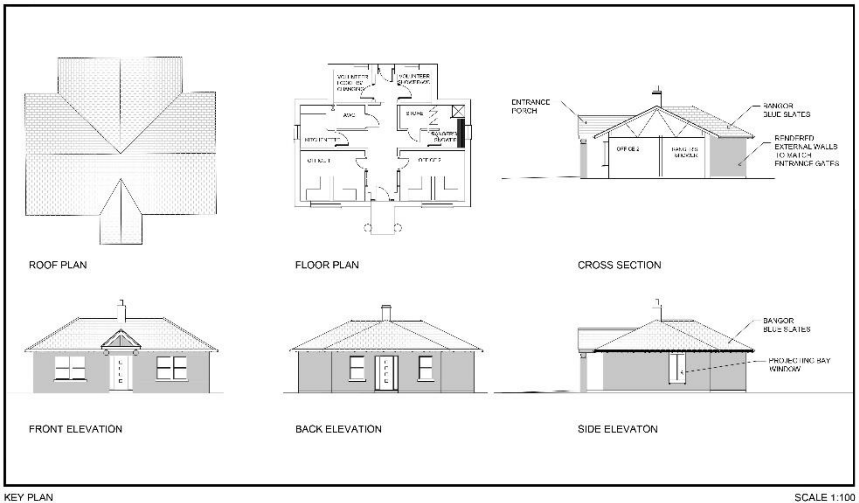
- The Acorn Farm Site
- The Gate Lodge

The Acorn Farm Site: will see the development of an iconic Geodesic Dome (10m high) set within a former Ministry of Defence (MoD) site at St Columb's Park, Derry. The existing site is derelict and was originally part of the park. It was occupied by the British Army adjoining Ebrington Barracks and was operational during 'The Troubles', prior to being handed back to Council in circa 1998 as part of the Good Friday Agreement.

This self-contained site will become an urban community farm practicing permaculture techniques. The project is grounded in the ethos and philosophy of Permaculture. Permaculture is the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. Acorn Farm will embrace new and innovative technologies. It will become a venue to support the UK Sustainable Food Places Network agenda. The bio-spheres will become a visitor destination and eco-hub for learning/skills development. There will be health benefits, using our natural capital as a catalyst for social, economic and physical growth. Acorn Farm will be a first in NI and Ireland offering a unique visitor experience. It will become a showcase for many other social farm projects. It will demonstrate the multi-functionality of Green Infrastructure benefiting the local community and the environment whilst welcoming more visitors. Planning Permission has been secured (LA1/2017/1110F). Murray Architects are developing plans to RIBA Stage 4. Point A on Masterplan.



The 'Gate Lodge': Tracy Architects have been appointed. Designs are presently at RIBA Stage 3. The gate lodge will accommodate site-based staff for the effective management of the Acorn Farm and wider parkland. See Point B on Masterplan



PROJECT INFORMATION	
PROJECT NAME	ACORN FARM GATE LODGE
CLIENT	TRACY ARCHITECTS
DATE	MARCH 2021
SCALE	1:100
DRAWING INFORMATION	
NO.	01
DATE	MARCH 2021
SCALE	1:100
BY	TRACY ARCHITECTS
CHECKED BY	TRACY ARCHITECTS

3c Please set out the value of capital grant being requested from UK Government (UKG) (£). This should align with the financial case:		£
3d Please specify the proportion of funding requested for each of the Fund's three investment themes	Regeneration and town centre	25%
	Cultural	75%
	Transport	0%

PART 4 STRATEGIC FIT

4.1 Member of Parliament Endorsement (GB Only)

See technical note section 5 for Role of MP in bidding and Table 1 for further guidance.

4.1a Have any MPs formally endorsed this bid? If so confirm name and constituency. Please ensure you have attached the MP's endorsement letter.

Yes

No

N/A for NI Bids – however, Elected Members and Northern Ireland Executive Members of the Legislative Assembly received a project briefing on the 18th June 2021 and confirm that they are fully supportive of the submission for Acorn Farm – reinforcing the political support for the project. A copy of the presentation is attached (Appendix G) with this application dated 18th June 2021.

4.2 Stakeholder Engagement and Support

See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

4.2a Describe what engagement you have undertaken with local stakeholders and the community (communities, civic society, private sector and local businesses) to inform your bid and what support you have from them. (Limit 500 words)

Council continually engages with communities on the need to develop sustainable growing places. This ranges from one to one surveys with local residents, through to civic wide strategic engagement. The community voice has been heavily represented through individual organisations and networks in contributing to Council's Community Plan and Green Infrastructure Plan.

1. Through our local Council's community planning process over 6,000 people were engaged in the development of the Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan (The Community Plan 2019-2032)

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Planning/An-Update-on-Our-Community-Plan>.

2. Emerging from this and the other local DEA Community Plans, there is a demand for healthier communities through provision of more sustainable environments and a more resilient food supply system. The Acorn Farm Project supports the need to adopt healthy and sustainable diets in conjunction with reduction in food loss and waste as a key objective.

Outcomes and actions



3. The Green Infrastructure Stakeholder Group comprising over 30 key public, private and community organisations across the District (established 2017) co-designed the Green Infrastructure Plan (2019-2032) www.derrystarabne.com/gi This plan is aligned to Council's Community Plan & Local Development Plan 2032. The online public consultation received 30 written responses and further supported the need for additional community growing provision throughout the city and district.



4. The relevant GI Action Plan actions include
 - Delivery of an iconic permaculture demonstration project, such as Acorn Farm at St Columb's Park, to develop a market outlet, food innovation, social enterprises and markets;

5. University College Cork engaged with 109 targeted participants of the Lottery Funded Acorn Farm project (out of 260 families involved). Feedback revealed that across the city and district 42% of families report that food security/availability have affected them or their families recently. Most significantly, 96.3% of families either strongly agree (63.6%) or agree (32.4%) that we need to increase the amount of food grown in towns and gardens. 63% of families strongly agreed (28.7%) or agreed (35.2%) that we need to make greater use of science and technology to increase the world's food supply. Climate change was ranked as the number one factor (by a significant margin) that families believed will affect food security in the future.
6. Council and the Acorn Fund has partnered with Hollywood Transition Towns in County Down for a 'Growing Food, Growing Communities Project' securing £80,000 from Community Foundation (NI) to undertake a 3 stage democratic engagement process based on a participative engagement approach with members of the public and key stakeholders to explore food, climate and democratic decision making. The project sits at the nexus of democracy, climate change, biodiversity loss and the food system. A facilitator appointment is underway to engage 200 people in Derry. Stage 2 is planned for September 2021 and will support and inform the development of Acorn Farm.

Engagement Process



Members and MLAs received a project briefing on the 18th June 2021 reinforcing the political support for the project.

4.2b Are any aspects of your proposal controversial or not supported by the whole community? Please provide a brief summary, including any campaigns or particular groups in support or opposition? (Limit 250 words)

There are no aspects of the proposal that are controversial or not supported by the whole community.

The Regeneration of St Columb's Park including Acorn Farm was unanimously supported by all Elected Members at Councils' Environment & Regeneration Committee on the May 2016.

The project secured full planning permission on the 8th March 2019. There were no objections to the project and it has been widely supported in the media.



The Acorn Farm Project in the context of a wider need to address the food system was supported by the Strategic Growth Partnership on the 4th March 2021.

The Strategic Growth Partnership is a body made up of a wide range of partners including representatives from local statutory bodies, community organisations, political representatives, Central Government departments and other key regional support partners. Partners include: The Education Authority, The Health and Social Care Trusts, Public Health Agency, Health and Social Care Board, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Invest Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Sports Council for Northern Ireland (Sport NI), Libraries NI, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and Department for Communities.

Council civically and publically endorsed the submission of the Acorn Farm Project at its Governance & Strategic Planning Committee on the 4th May 2021 and subsequently at Full Council on the 27th May 2021 to go forward as a funding bid to the UK Levelling up Fund.

PLANS PRESENTED FOR BRANDYWELL SPORTS CENTRE, STRABANE PITCHES PROJECT AND WIDER FOYLE VALLEY GATEWAY

£7 million regeneration plan for St Columb's Park gets the green light

By STAFF REPORTER
 news@londerryanderryairtel.co.uk
 Twitter @L_Sentinel

Members of Derry City and Strabane District Council's Governance and Strategic Planning Committee has approved a number of significant funding applications into the recently announced UK Government Strategic Funding packages.

The report presented at last week's meeting identified a number of capital, skills and business support projects for which applications would now be progressed into the initial phase of the UK Community Renewal and Levelling Up funding programmes.

Presenting to members, council's funding manager Richard Osterus, highlighted some of the projects that could benefit subject to successful bids into a very competitive funding programme across the UK with an 18th June application deadline.

"Successful applications would seek to build on the successful City Deal and Inclusive Future Fund Investment announced earlier this year to advance significant capital



The St Columb's Park plan would see the regeneration of the former Ministry of Defence site, a new gate lodge and wider environmental improvements.

Successful applications would seek to build on the City Deal

Richard Osterus

projects in the City and District," he said.

"Significant applications would now be progressed for a range of ambitious projects including Brandywell Sports Centre, St Columb's Park Green Infrastructure Master Plan as well as multi-sport pitches and ancillary facilities development in the Strabane rural area.

"Officers are engaging with government and all relevant regional stakeholders in relation to the more significant UK Shared Prosperity Funds as well as round two of the Levelling Up Fund which will provide further opportunities for significant funds and investment to deliver upon the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan and the Local Growth Plans."

The regeneration of St Columb's Park is listed in Council's Green Infrastructure project as a significant capital build.

The project will see the regeneration of the former Ministry of Defence site of St Columb's Park into an urban growing space (Acorn Farm) within the city, a new gate lodge, enhanced car park-

ing, wider environmental improvements to include play provision, enhanced biodiversity signage and landscaping. The estimated cost is in the region of £5-7m.

The Rural Strabane Pitches project is a multi-sport pitch development with associated ancillary facilities that aims to address a pitches deficit in the rural Strabane hinterland across the sports of soccer, GAA and rugby.

The estimated project value is in the region of £4.5m and the pitches facilities deficit has been identified through the council's Pitches and Facilities Strategy.

The Brandywell Sports Centre project includes an upgrade of the existing grass pitch to provide floodlighting, fencing and changing facilities at the site.

It follows the demolition of the old Brandywell Sports Centre as part of the Brandywell Development and the regeneration is part of the wider Foyle Valley Gateway Regeneration Plan.

The project is aligned to the Cultural and Heritage Investment and the Regeneration and Town Centre Investment priorities of the fund and has an estimated cost is £4.3m.

<p>4.2c Where the bidding local authority does not have the statutory responsibility for the delivery of projects, have you appended a letter from the responsible authority or body confirming their support?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>
<p>For Northern Ireland transport bids, have you appended a letter of support from the relevant district council</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>

4.3 The Case for Investment

See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

4.3a Please provide evidence of the local challenges/barriers to growth and context that the bid is seeking to respond to. (Limit 500 words)

Economy: DCSDC has particular challenges given the high levels of deprivation, unemployment and economic inactivity compared to the NI average.



Our Government District population is 150,679. This represents 8.0% of the NI population. The City & District serves a wider city region of 350,000 people.

Twenty of the Super Output Areas (SOA) in Derry/Strabane are within the top 100 most deprived SOA across NI, with 5 being in the top 10.

At 6.7% the claimant count (16 – 64 age) is the highest in NI, compared to a NI average of 5.3%, with male unemployment a particular challenge at 9.5%. Youth unemployment remains an issue for the Council area. At 34.1% the city and district has a higher percentage of economically inactive people aged 16-64 than the NI average of 27.2%

15.3% of those aged 16 to 64 had no formal qualifications with 51.7%. In 2017, only 27% of DCSDC Residents have NVQ Level 4 or above and 17% have no qualifications, higher and lower than NI averages respectively.

DSCDC still has lower than average economic activity rates at 56.4% (aged 16+) and 65.9% (aged 16-64) compared to NI averages of 60.2% and 72.8% respectively. Employment rates stand at 52.8% (16+) and 61.6% (16-64) compared to NI averages of 58.0% and 70.0% across the same age ranges.

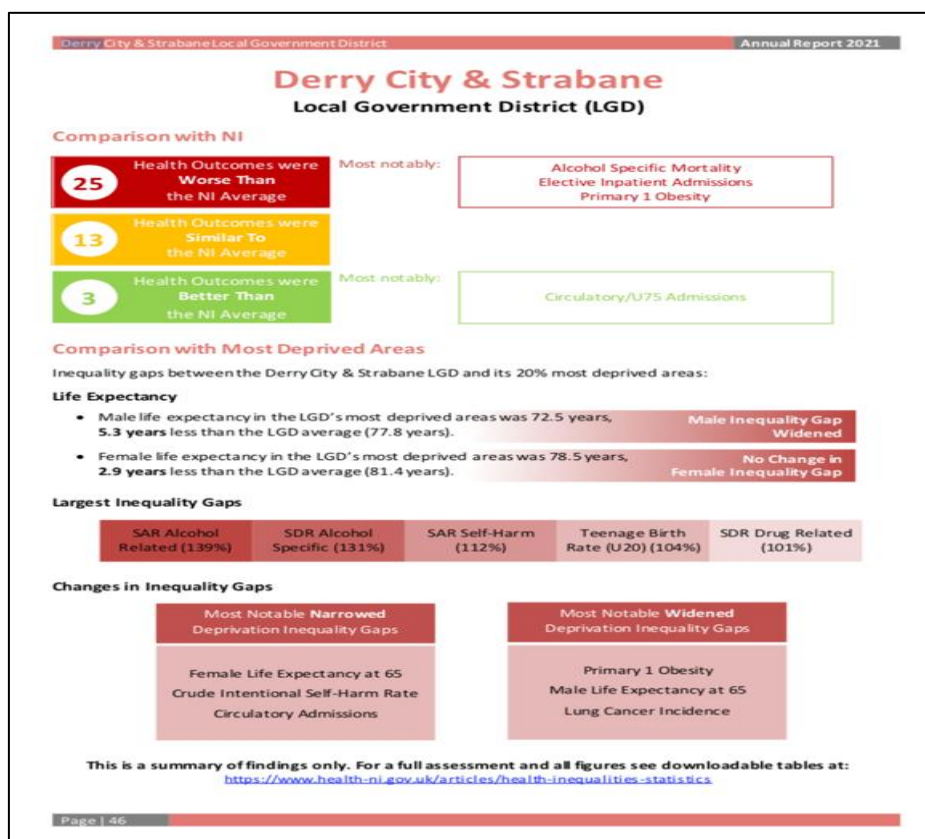
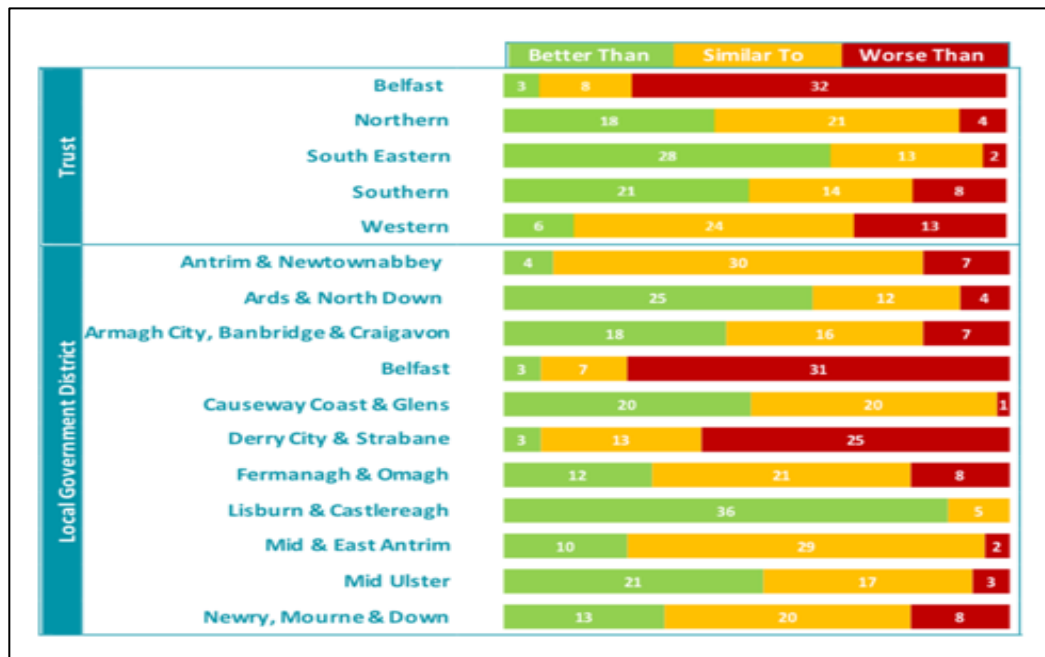
Most significantly, across a range of socio economic indicators, DCSDC underperforms compared to 341 local authorities throughout the rest of the UK. Indicators such as claimant count, economic inactivity, gross disposable household income, children in low income families and persons with no qualifications were examined, with DCSDC ranked against other Local Authorities in relation to these. Amongst 6 of the 9 indicators analysed the city region was ranked in the top 10 (with 1 being the most disadvantaged).

Indicator	Date	UK	England	Scotland	Wales	NI	DCSDC	DCSDC Rank
Claimant Count (% 16 -64)	Mar -17	2.7	2.6	3.1	2.8	2.5	4.8	15
Economic Inactivity (% 16-64)	2017	21.8	21.4	22.6	23.9	27.7	37.0	2
Job Density	2017	0.85	0.87	0.81	0.76	0.76	0.7	97
GDHI per head (£)	2016	19,432	19,878	18,231	15,835	15,719	14,036	9
GDHI per head Index (UK = 100)	2016	100	702.3	93.8	81.5	80.9	72.2	9
Gross Median Annual Pay (£)	2018	24,006	24,298	23,800	22,088	22,016	18,204	4
% Children in Low Income Families	2016	17.3	17.0	16.7	20.5	21.3	31.7	3
Daily Activities Limited due to Long Term Health Problem or Disability (% 16+)	2011	18.1	17.6	19.6	22.7	20.1	22.5	43
% Population with No Qualifications (16+)	2011	23.2	22.5	26.8	25.9	29.1	34.8	3

The issues facing the North West in terms of deprivation, unemployment, economic inactivity and educational attainment present a challenge for the region. COVID-19 has had and continues to have an unprecedented impact on the North West economy.

Acorn Farm unlocks eco-innovation, education, skills and job opportunities using natural capital as a catalyst for social, economic and physical growth and prosperity.

Health: The Health Inequalities Report (2021) highlights within the sub-regional analysis that the DCSDC area had a majority of health outcomes that were worse than the NI average in common with Belfast LGD and the Belfast HSC area.



The Royal College of Psychiatrists state that moderate level of exercise through use of Parks and food growing activities and improve mental health and be as effective as anti-depressants.

Acorn Farm aims to address some of these barriers to health & wellbeing through the provision of community growing spaces, skills and learning programmes, and increased employment opportunities through green infrastructure.

Our particular focus will be on addressing underinvestment and the need to level up in terms of health inequalities through growing food, healthier diets, social engagement and participation, regeneration of a derelict site into a community-growing asset, providing jobs/skill/training/ employment opportunities using the green economy.

4.3b Explain why Government investment is needed (what is the market failure)? (Limit 250 words)

Given the scale of challenge along with the COVID19 aftermath, significant funding is required to level up investment. DCSDC alone will not deliver the step change required to positively impact on local people's welfare and well-being.

Without external financial support it will take longer to reduce our economic/health indicators/performance to meet the rest of NI and the UK gap will continue to widen. We have a relatively low rates base to serve our communities as our Council district is typified by high levels of deprivation. (See 4.3a above).

Our Council is heavily reliant on securing external funding to support capital projects. Council is simply not in a position to fund the project 100%. Whilst central government funding opportunities exist these are limited at relatively modest sums (circa £500k/capital project). This results in incremental project delivery spanning over many financial years. Council has availed of significant EU funding in the past, however BREXIT has impacted on the opportunities to apply for larger sums.

Traditionally, investment in projects of this nature have been impacted by the need to prioritise social, economic and community infrastructural needs. It is widely accepted that the Northwest of NI has suffered due to the lack of historic investment, legacy of 'The Troubles', and failure to tackle the long established socio-economic problems.

Covid-19 recovery and 'building back better' presents an unprecedented opportunity to invest in our Green Infrastructure. UK Government funding will help address the environmental and social challenges we face to level up regional disparities.

4.3c Please set out a clear explanation on what you are proposing to invest in and why the proposed interventions in the bid will address those challenges and barriers with evidence to support that explanation. As part of this, we would expect to understand the rationale for the location. (Limit 500 words)

Regeneration Acorn Farm is linked to the Derry's wider City Deal. The site will be transformed into a community asset - an urban farm. We will realise natural/social capital as a catalyst for social/economic/physical growth and prosperity for a Green Recovery.

Projects like Acorn Farm, will have a positive effect increasing visitor dwell time and tourism expenditure. It will stimulate further private sector investment to address significant regional disparities.

Economic benefits include increased visitor numbers and associated spend. Tourism NI state that 1 in 4 visitors are willing to pay more for products/services that are eco-friendly. Evidence supports that visitor profiles and demand are changing with preferences towards sustainable tourism propositions which include the carbon friendly outcomes i.e. food production and resource efficiencies, all contributing towards economic and socio-cultural well-being.

Post Covid, the Tourism sector will recreate sustainable jobs. The sector's employment generation is particularly inclusive, supporting women, youth and other groups of society whom are often marginalised. COVID 19 has had and continues to have an unprecedented impact on the North West economy with an estimation that 80% of businesses will have furloughed staff as a direct consequence.¹ It is also expected that some businesses may have to make permanent redundancies as a result.² With more people choosing staycations, and given that GB remains the primary market for many businesses and visitors across the region a real opportunity exists to develop a unique local sustainable tourism proposition. Direct benefits include construction jobs, inclusion of social/apprenticeship clauses and training benefits.

Human & Environmental Health & Well Being Acorn Farm will provide opportunities for local people and visitors to learn about environmental issues, challenges and solutions. Through the delivery of engagement and learning programmes at Acorn Farm it is anticipated that changes in lifestyles and food practices will be delivered.

The development of the site is estimated to attract an additional local 100,000 visitors to St Columb's park adding an additional £1m per annum in mental health benefits and £570,000 in physical health benefits per year. Of these visitors we estimate that 20% will visit Acorn Farm directly resulting in a combined benefit of £314,000 (See section 5.1c)

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-52203936> - 8th April 2020

² <https://www.cipd.co.uk/about/media/press/redundancies-coronavirus> - 2nd April 2020

Lifelong Learning / Green Economy Skills & Jobs: Acorn Farm contributes holistically to the outcomes of the City Deal using Green Infrastructure to unlock eco-innovation, education, skills and jobs using natural capital as a catalyst for growth. Through learning and skills development programmes we will create pathways to sustained employment in the Green Economy with City Deal Partners (Northwest Regional College & University).

Climate Action: The design, construction and operation of the Acorn Farm will be 'Climate Smart' showcasing sustainable resilient/low carbon technologies to grow local food. The site will become the hub of a local sustainable food network creating a bio-economy with emphasis on local participation in the food system becoming more resilience to the effects of climate change.

4.3d For Transport Bids: Have you provided an Option Assessment Report (OAR)

Yes

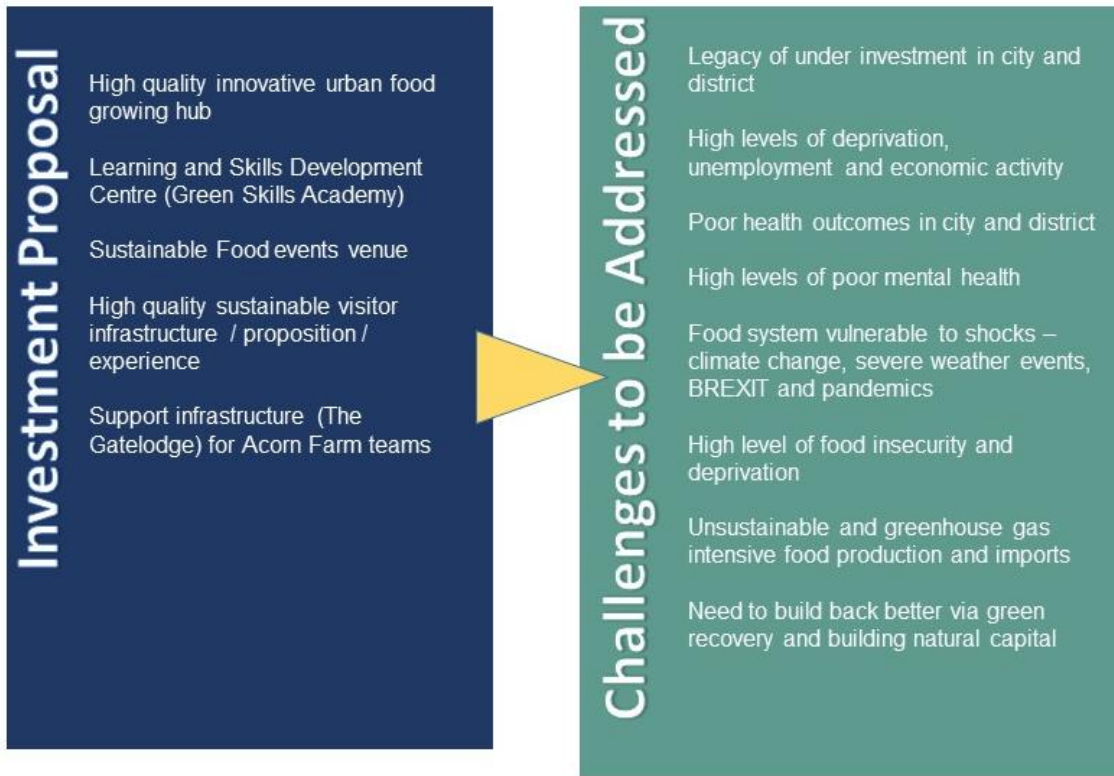
No

4.3e Please explain how you will deliver the outputs and confirm how results are likely to flow from the interventions. This should be demonstrated through a well-evidenced *Theory of Change*. Further guidance on producing a Theory of Change can be found within [HM Treasury's Magenta Book](#) (page 24, section 2.2.1) and [MHCLG's appraisal guidance](#). (Limit 500 words)

Acorn Farm will '*maximise the Park as a natural capital asset for the environmental, economic and social wellbeing of our community*' through achieving the project outcomes and transformative changes below.

The development of the innovative food growing project aims to address the issue of an unsustainable, vulnerable and unhealthy food system that currently undermines efforts to combat climate change. Through Acorn Farm, we will provide a future vision and demonstration eco-site showcasing how we can change the existing resource intensive and unsustainable Food System.

The investment proposition is presented below to address the challenges.



The Theory of Change Model below illustrates the impact of the Acorn Farm



The target audiences for the project include the general public, visitors to the city, interest groups and growers networks, government departments and agencies and research communities.

Research confirms the need for a transformation in our food and farming system in order to respond to the climate emergency, and improve public health and wellbeing. We know that agricultural practices are significant polluters and can displace natural ecosystems. It is often monoculture in nature. Acorn Farm offers the opportunity to showcase alternative, sustainable and healthy permaculture based urban food growing opportunities.

The project will also address issues of food poverty, resilience, education and skills and health inequalities in the city and district through encouraging local food growing through associated programming and events.

Acorn Farm will become a learning centre for renewables and sustainable education. It will provide skills and employment for local people as part of a new Green Economy and crucially will deliver the following outcomes through a series of interventions:

1. **Changes in Health:** positive impact on physical, mental health and well-being, social capital and cohesion.
2. **Changes in Ethos** – A Permaculture Based Approach; facilitated through Life Long Learning, food growing projects and food governance.
3. **Changes in Behaviour** – Diet; facilitated through pop up markets, availability of locally grown food and programmes and events.
4. **Changes in Culture A New Food Movement;** facilitated by associated learning and skills development programmes
5. **Changes in Technology;** facilitated by innovative climate proofed and sustainable food growing hub showcasing new resilient and net zero technologies.

Acorn Farm will identify innovative technological solutions to address food system challenges. It will make our communities leaders in urban poly-culture, food production model in terms of permaculture principals, and become a growing and leading educational resource.

The objective of the dome as a demonstration project is that it will showcase how we can become resilient to environmental change growing food under glass within the city, whilst remaining competitive, giving our changing climatic conditions and increased demand on food production.

The futuristic, Acorn Farm will be self-sustaining with innovative water and energy management systems for regenerative food production. The Farm Domes will also inspire visitors and others to undertake local food production with crop diversification, changes in growing techniques and scalability of growing techniques. This will serve to reduce food imports thereby increasing resilience of supply and reducing carbon footprint.

4.4 Alignment with the local and national context

See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

4.4a Explain how your bid aligns to and supports relevant local strategies (such as Local Plans, local economic strategies or Local Transport Plans) and local objectives for investment, improving infrastructure and levelling up. (Limit 500 words)

Strategic Inclusive Growth Plan (2019-2032)

Council's Community Plan's mission is *'to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the city and district and to do so in a sustainable way'*. The outcomes have been co-designed and align to the NI Executives Programme for Government. Outcomes and Actions include *'develop our parks and greenspaces including major regeneration and environmental schemes at St Columb's Park'*

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/d5769e51-b974-4551-b043-bba13631e659/3-1-Draft-Strategic-Growth-Plan.pdf>



Green Infrastructure Plan (2019-2032)

The Green Infrastructure Plan was developed as part of District's Local Development Plan 2032. The GI Plan is an action from the District's Community Plan. Under the Economic Prosperity Key Strategic Theme of the GI Plan, a priority is that, *'GI supports a local circular food economy'*. This priority will be delivered through several actions, for example, Action 5.32, *'Deliver an iconic permaculture demonstration project, for example, Acorn Farm & Walled Garden at St Columb's Park, to develop a market outlet, food innovation, social enterprises and markets'*.

www.derrystrabane.com/gi



Waterside Local Growth Plan

Community Planning is a process led by Derry City & Strabane District Council in partnership with communities to develop and implement a shared, long-term vision to improve social, economic and environmental well-being. It guides how our public services work together locally to plan and deliver better services. Specifically, the Regeneration of St Columb's Park is a key capital project supporting the Outcome & Action 'promote and develop GI projects to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change'.

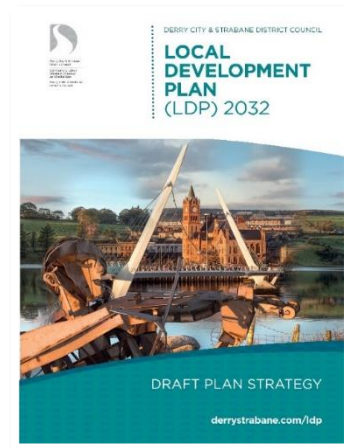
<https://growderrystrabane.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/30776-Local-Growth-Plan-Waterside-Amended-LOW-RES.pdf>



Local Development Plan (2032)

The LDP sets out the strategic planning objectives, designations and policies, which will guide developments and encourage investment, co-ordinate infrastructure for our people and protect our environment beyond 2032. Specifically, the LDP seeks to align with Council's Strategic Growth Plan and GI Plan. Its purpose being to ensure co-ordinated and consistent approach to meeting the districts open space, sporting and recreational needs.

https://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/f0dfee6f-7ba0-4422-8a29-6163562286e2/DC-SDC_Local-Development-Plan-final-online_1.pdf



Climate Adaptation Plan (2020)

Council's Climate Adaptation Plan vision that *“Derry City & Strabane District Council is prepared for and resilient to the effects of climate change, creating a safe and sustainable region for all”*. The Climate Adaptation Plan highlights the risk to food production from climate change and weather-related shocks emphasising the need to develop a climate resilient food system.

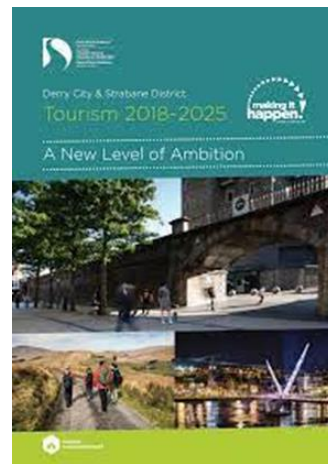
http://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/documents/s31062/Appendix%201%20DCSDC_Climate%20Change%20Adaptation%20Plan%202020-2025%20Final%20Draft.pdf



DCSDC Tourism Strategy (2018-2025)

Tourism currently attracts almost 283,000 overnight visitors to Derry City & Strabane District and contributes to over £50m in the local economy. This in turn supports over 4,685 tourism jobs which makes up 8.7% of total jobs in the City and District. Derry City & Strabane Tourism 2025 sets out priorities and activities to help us double visitor spend to £100million and create 1000 additional jobs in the sector by 2025. The development of the strategy was an action identified in the Strategic Growth Plan which highlighted tourism as a key sector for economic growth and job creation and was developed following extensive consultation with tourism partners and stakeholders.

<https://www.derrystrabane.com/tourism>



Strategic linkages to national strategies is expanded in 4.4b

4.4b Explain how the bid aligns to and supports the UK Government policy objectives, legal and statutory commitments, such as delivering Net Zero carbon emissions and improving air quality. Bids for transport projects in particular should clearly explain their carbon benefits. (Limit 250 words)

Acorn Farm Project contributes to international/national and local policies /plans. Using regenerative/sustainable food growing, Acorn Farm will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, deliver resilience and food security, enhance skills and increase health and wellbeing.

National

- UK Climate Change Act 2008
- UK Sixth Carbon Budget
- NI Executive New Decade New Approach
- NI Economic Recovery Action Plan 2021
- NI Energy Strategy 2050
- RSPB Five-Point Plan to Deliver a Green Recovery for NI
- NI Regional Development Strategy 2035
- NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme
- Valuing Nature A Biodiversity Strategy for NI
- Sustainable Water, A Long Term Strategy for NI 2015-2045
- Making Life Better: A Whole System Strategic Framework for Public Health 2013 – 2023

Derry City & Strabane District Council

- Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan 2017 -2032
- City Deal for the Derry ~ Londonderry City Region 2018
- Climate Emergency Declaration & Pledge
- Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032
- Climate Adaptation Plan 2020-2025
- Local Development Plan 2032 Draft Plan Strategy
- Circular Economy / Zero Waste Strategy
- Food & Drink Strategy 2018-2021
- Derry City and Strabane District Local Food and Drink Strategy
- DCSDC Tourism 2018-2025: A New Level of Ambition

The project will:

1. Meet a number of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and Paris Agreement targets ³
2. Contribute to the UK target of net zero emissions by 2050 as part of the Sixth Carbon Budget. ⁴
3. Contribute to Council's pledge to achieve a target of net zero emissions by 2045.⁵
4. Demonstrate the UK Government Green Book supplementary guidance 'Accounting for the Effects of Climate Change' and 'Valuation of Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas'.⁶

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment> (<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>)

⁴ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget>

⁵ www.derrystrabane.co./climate

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-book-supplementary-guidance-environment>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuation-of-energy-use-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions-for-appraisal>

5. Support NI Department for the Economy Economic Recovery Action Plan to rebuilding the economy from the impact of the pandemic through a new Green Deal ⁷
6. Support The NI Executive New Decade New Approach to reduce carbon emissions and deliver resilience to the climate crisis. ⁸
7. Support the NI Executive Agri-Food Innovation Strategy ⁹
8. Support the NI Executive Energy Strategy (2021) settings ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society. ¹⁰
9. UK Government ambition to lead the Green Industrial Revolution outlined in the Ten Point Plan (November 2020). The project will support Point7 Greener Buildings and Point9 Protecting our Natural Environment. ¹¹
10. Support the UK Air Quality Strategy through reducing emissions from energy production, and development of regenerative food production. ¹²

4.4c Where applicable explain how the bid complements / or aligns to and supports other investments from different funding streams. (Limit 250 words)

Our bid complements other funding streams as follows;

- Builds on the City Deal £250m proposition to transform the city’s prosperity that will contribute to building a stronger, more competitive, resilient and inclusive economy, will deliver higher paid jobs and contribute to creating a more regionally-balanced economy over the coming years.
- £200,000 seed funding from the UK Climate Action Fund to commence the Acorn Farm project. £25,000 has been dedicated to advancing the Geodesic Dome designs to RIBA Stage 4. This project will create the context for the Longer Term Vision (WP7) to create a climate smart urban sustainable food demonstration site in the heart of our city to address the unsustainable food system and its negative impact on the environment and human health inequalities.

⁷ <http://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/economic-recovery-action-plan>

⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/856998/2020-01-08_a_new_decade_a_new_approach.pdf

⁹ <https://www.investni.com/sites/default/files/documents/static/library/invest-ni/documents/agri-food-strategy-board-call-for-evidence-information-booklet.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/energy/energy-strategy>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-air-strategy-2019>

- Grant of £5,000 from the Sustainable Food Places for Derry to become a Sustainable Food Place. Council, has matched this with £5k to second a Council Officer as a Sustainable Food Place Co-ordinator to progress Derry to becoming a member of the UK Sustainable Food Network.
- Secured £80,000 with Hollywood Transition Towns to deliver the Growing Food & Growing Communities Project to engage and deliver a 3 stage engagement process with 300-400 members of the public and key stakeholders to explore food, climate and democratic decision making.
- Secured £50,000 from Council to support the development of 3 UK Levelling up Bids to employ external design expertise to advance the project to achieve spend this financial year.

4.4d Please explain how the bid aligns to and supports the Government's expectation that all local road projects will deliver or improve cycling and walking infrastructure and include bus priority measures (unless it can be shown that there is little or no need to do so). Cycling elements of proposals should follow the Government's cycling design guidance which sets out the standards required. (Limit 250 words)

Whilst our project is not a road project, Acorn Farm strategically aligns to Councils Green Infrastructure, Climate Change and Greenways Plan.

Acorn Farm is strategically located at a central node in the City's Active Travel Network. The site is only 1km from the Multi-modal Transport Hub, to which it is connected by the Ebrington Greenway, and 500m from the Peace Bridge, giving cycling and walking access to the bus station and the western half of the City.

We will include cycle parking facilities in the regeneration of the site to support users. In addition, the recent consultation of the Regeneration of the former MOD lands at Clooney make provision for an extended greenway network linking in more disadvantaged communities into St Columb's Park.

www.derrystrabane.com/clooneymasterplan

The Acorn Project also support the Greenways Plan (2015). This document provides a strategic and co-ordinated plan for the development of a network of Greenways throughout the North West. It aims to develop a cross border network of greenways linking people with place locally, nationally and regionally – bringing social, economic and environmental wellbeing to all.

http://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/56932767-0160-401e-a53a-84963957f617/North-West-Greenway-Plan_draft_5_15-10-15-reduced-size.pdf



A key component of Acorn Farm is to address carbon and the climate change agenda which is complementary to the active and sustainable transport agenda.

PART 5 VALUE FOR MONEY

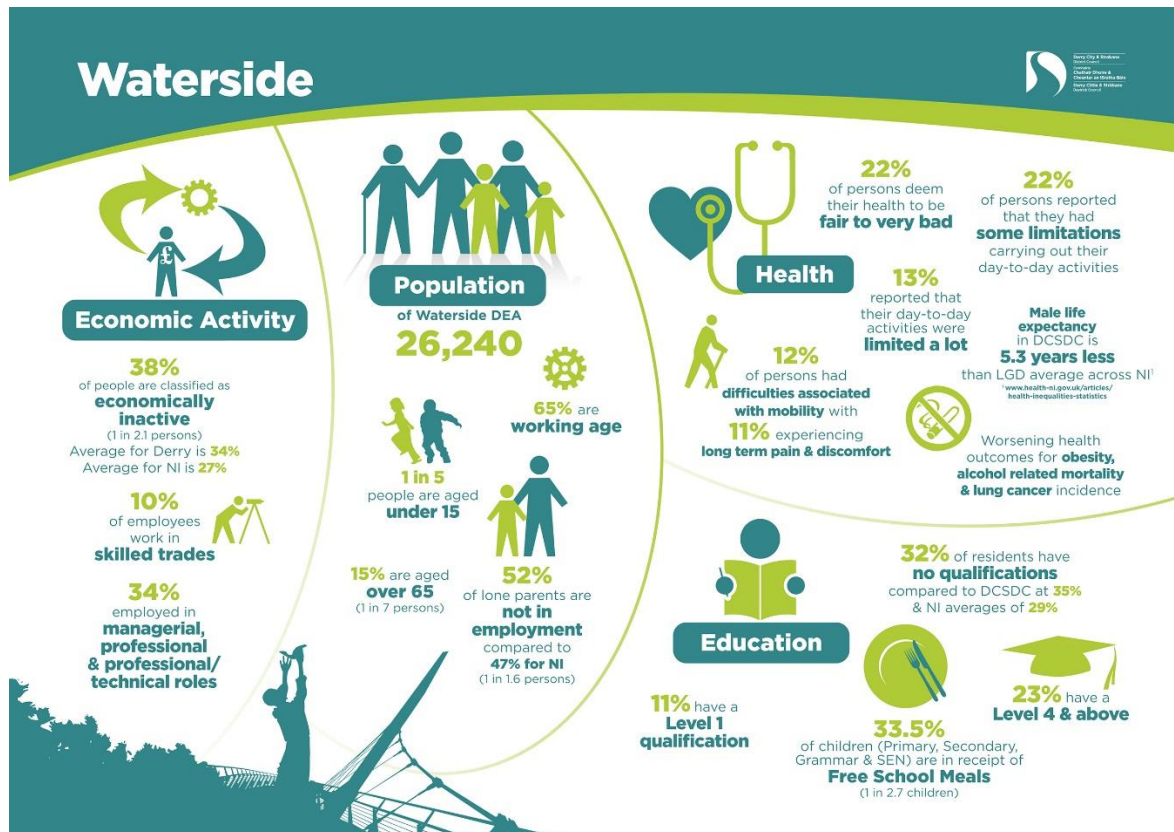
5.1 Appropriateness of data sources and evidence

See technical note Annex B and Table 1 for further guidance.

All costs and benefits must be compliant or in line with [HMT's Green Book](#), [DfT Transport Analysis Guidance](#) and [MHCLG Appraisal Guidance](#).

5.1a Please use up to date evidence to demonstrate the scale and significance of local problems and issues. (Limit 250 words)

The Waterside DEA is summarized as follows:



As illustrated above the Waterside District Electoral Area where Acorn Farm is to be located has lower than average health and education outcomes while employment and economic inactivity rates are higher. The Waterside DEA NISRA key indicators are :

- **Health:** 22% of person deem their health to be fair to very bad
- **Education:** 32% of residents have no qualifications compared to NI averages 29%
- **Economic activity:** 38% of people in Waterside are classified as economically inactive (1 in 2.6) – Average for NI is 27%
- 32% of residents have no qualifications compared to DCSDC at 35% and NI averages of 29%

- 11% have a Level 1 qualification
- 23% have a Level 4 and above
- 17% of young people aged 16 – 24 have no qualifications
- 18% of young people aged 16 – 24 have Level 1 qualification

Growing Space for Community

Council's Natural Capital Account confirms that Council owns c1,000 acres of Green Space. Acorn Farm will add a further 0.73ha to Council's allotment provision. The National Allotments Standard recommend that there should be 1 plot (250m²) per 1,000 households – this would equate to 1,5750m² to be dedicated to allotment provision. Acorn Farm will increase the current Council offering to 16,100m² addressing the current demand for space (as evidenced by the waiting list)

5.1b Bids should demonstrate the quality assurance of data analysis and evidence for explaining the scale and significance of local problems and issues. Please demonstrate how any data, surveys and evidence is robust, up to date and unbiased. (Limit 500 words)

The data used to inform this application including Information and data provided to evidence the scale and significance of the inequalities gaps impacting on the DCSDC area has been derived from credible published sources and is up to date.

The data and information is from the following sources;

1. **DCSDC Natural Capital Account** - for Outdoor Recreation Space (March 2021) – Council employed the market leaders in Green Economics – Vivid Economics to carry out a NCA of publically accessible greenspace to demonstrate the environmental, economic and social benefits of greenspace. A copy of this documents can be viewed at www.derrystrabane.com/gi
2. **Socio Economic Data** - Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency -NISRA is an Agency of the Department of Finance. NISRA is the principal source of official statistics and social research on Northern Ireland. These statistics and research inform public policy and associated debate in the wider society. Census 2011 – NISRA <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>
3. **University College Cork** have completed a Food System Baseline Assessment for Derry City and Strabane District Council (April 2021). This provides snapshot of the current

food system in place and uncovers recent trends across in terms of population health, crop outputs and animal number, priority export markets, food waste, and environmental footprints. It sets out the status quo from which a vision for healthy and sustainable food system can be built.

4. **Health and Wellbeing** – information has been sourced through a variety of reports provided by PHA NI and PHA England

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-inequalities-annual-report-2020>
<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>

5. **Economic Benefits** – Applying AIM Economic Value of the Independent Museum Sector (2019). We have applied this toolkit to Acorn Farm in the absence of park specific toolkits. This toolkit (the ‘AIM Economic Impact Toolkit’) sets out a straightforward approach to help museums estimate the economic impact they have on their local economy. The Toolkit was originally produced in 2010, and was updated in 2019 maintains the same overall approach – whilst enhancing, improving and updating various aspects – maintaining its ‘easy to use’ approach and providing additional levels of analysis for those that require it. Estimating economic impacts is a specialised and technical task, which typically involves a range of complex assumptions. Whilst it does not represent a full independent economic impact assessment, this Toolkit does present an approach that can be used by museums to estimate their economic contribution and impact for the purposes of advocacy (overall, or gross, economic impact) and making a case to economic and tourism stakeholders (net additional economic impact). It is important that for each stage, the most accurate available information and data is used, which in an ideal situation would include the collection of museum-specific information (e.g. visitor surveys)

<https://aim-museums.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Economic-Impact-Toolkit-2019.pdf>

Research analysis of various tourism volume and value datasets, 2018 (Based on data released in June 2019 for 2018)

<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/annual-tourism-statistics-publications> and for local authority level: <https://tourismni.com/globalassets/facts-and-figures/researchreports/tourism-performance-statistics/local-government-district-tourism-statistics/lgdsummary-tourism-estimates-2018.pdf>

5.1c Please demonstrate that data and evidence chosen is appropriate to the area of influence of the interventions. (Limit 250 words)

The Waterside DEA NISRA key indicator are :

- **Health:** 22% of person deem their health to be fair to very bad
- **Education:** 32% of residents have no qualifications compared to NI averages 29%
- **Economic activity:** 38% of people in Waterside are classified as economically inactive (1 in 2.6) – Average for NI is 27%

Council's Natural Capital Account (NCA) describes components of the natural environment that provide economic benefits to people. Benefits include cleaner air, water, improved physical health, mental health and well-being, carbon storage, etc. NCA is a key tenet of the 25 year Environmental Plan in taking a natural capital approach to environmental decision making.

There is increasing recognition that greenspaces are important for health and communities their economic value is less often explicit. By quantifying the benefits of the natural environment, natural capital accounting can inform strategic policymaking and investment. Our Natural Capital Assessment shows that the greenspace provide good value for money and are easily accessible to most residents.

In addition, the UCC Base Line Analysis of the Food System (2021) – the overall dietary summary is concerning, with dietary intakes consistently falling outside of recommended guidelines.

The NCA key findings are:





Publicly accessible greenspaces in Derry and Strabane will provide £1.7 Billion in value to the residents between 2021 to 2032, over the lifetime of the GI plan, if current visit levels are maintained.



Mental wellbeing accounts for more than half of the value provided by the green spaces. This equates to £89 million per annum.



Public owned & accessible greenspace woodland store 30,000 tonnes of carbon a year.

Covid-19 has created urgency for cities to enhance the benefits of greenspace and to avoid public health concerns.



COVID-19 has demonstrated the importance of providing equitable access to greenspaces in Derry and Strabane for health and well-being.



Council owned greenspaces experienced a 30% increase in visits in 2020, compared to 2019, due to COVID-19.

Economic Impact figures derived from applying AIM Economic Value of the Independent Museum Sector (2019) see 5.1b above.

5.2 Effectiveness of proposal in addressing problems

5.2a Please provide analysis and evidence to demonstrate how the proposal will address existing or anticipated future problems. Quantifiable impacts should usually be forecasted using a suitable model. (Limit 500 words)

Our Natural Capital Accounting (2020) has been used as our assessment model

Health: Derry has high health inequalities. Based on Vivid Economics calculations of the Natural Capital Account for the district, the figures for St Columb's Park are: 2020 visitor estimates - 300,000 (Informed by pedestrian counters)

St Columb's Park currently contributes the following:

- Mental health benefit £3.6m
- Physical health benefit £1.8m
- Property value uplift £8,222
- Carbon storage value £5,200
- = **Total NCA value £5.4m /annum**

Health related impacts of poor diets include; Type two diabetes and cardiovascular disease with both diseases costing £1 million per day and £412 million per year in direct costs respectively (NIAO, 2018). These treatment costs account for 10% of current local healthcare expenditure. Under current projections this is set to rise to 17% by 2025. The costs of treating diabetes-related complications are particularly high, and may account for up to 80 per cent of overall healthcare spend on the condition. Type 2 diabetes complications account for over 4,000 hospital admissions and 15,000 patient beds annually.

The current Diabetes Strategic Framework has set the direction for local diabetes care until 2027 (DoH, 2016). Based on current estimates, the local healthcare system is expected to incur expenditure of at least £4 billion in this period on treating diabetes.

Moreover, these diseases, and associated costs, are not experienced in a uniform manner across Northern Ireland. Socio-economic groupings have clear correlations with dietary health and prevalence of diet related diseases. Correlation between social deprivation and poor dietary and health outcomes was also documented. Derry City and Strabane's high deprivation levels relative to other local government districts in Northern Ireland was noted.

Lack of Growing Space:

Council manage (8800m²) allotment in St Columb's Park– there is a 10 year waiting list. Acorn Farm will offer increased space for local interested growers of 7,300m² which will address the shortfall based on National Allotments Standards

Employment & Skills: Based on the NISRA statistics we know that for the Waterside DEA

- 32% of residents have no qualifications compared to DCSDC at 35% and NI averages of 29%
- 11% have a Level 1 qualification
- 23% have a Level 4 and above
- 17% of young people aged 16 – 24 have no qualifications
- 18% of young people aged 16 – 24 have Level 1 qualification

Young people have been most affected by Covid-19. Targeting this age group can make a difference. There is a real opportunity to explore horticulture/farming type qualification (an apprenticeship), linked to DAERA (CAFRE) and the residential areas, even the schools. There is a lot of research underway into the educational under-achievement of young Protestant males through the Labour Market Partnership.

5.2b Please describe the robustness of the forecast assumptions, methodology and model outputs. Key factors to be covered include the quality of the analysis or model (in terms of its accuracy and functionality) (Limit 500 words)

Greenkeeper tool is an online tool designed to support planning and investment decision around Green Infrastructure in cities across the UK. (<https://www.greenkeeperuk.co.uk>).

Greenkeeper used data on visitor patterns, greenspace characteristics, and evidence on the social, economic and environmental benefits. Using the economic analysis and Vivid Economics, the Health and wellbeing expertise of the European Centre of Environmental & Human Health.

The value of greenspace is estimated in term of (a) physical health (b) mental well-being (c) amenity value methodology and (d) carbon sequestration. The current figures are based on 300,000 visitors to St Columb's Park.

We project an increase of 30% or 100,000 more visitors to the park. The present NCA2020 value for this greenspace is £5.4m /annum.

The mental health benefits are projected to increase by £1 million/annum and £570,000 /annum for physical health benefits – we anticipate that 20% of these visitors will visit Acorn Farm resulting in a direct health benefit of **£314,000**.

The value of **mental wellbeing** is based on improvements in life satisfaction reported by adult visitors. Research supports that people who spend more time in greenspace report higher levels of life satisfaction than those who spend less time in greenspaces. We forecast an increase in mental health benefits from £3.6m to £4.6m per annum. The value of life satisfaction from greenspace visits is calculated by quantifying the amount of money that would lead to an increased equivalent in life satisfaction. This is prorated to £200k for Acorn Farm

Physical health benefits are calculated separately for low and high activity adult visitors. The health benefits for low activity visitors calculated by measuring the reduction in risk of all-cause mortality from their exercise in green space. The risk reduction is expressed in the quantity of fatalities prevented, then given a monetary value using Department for Treasury value of a prevented fatality (VPF). In contrast, the health benefits are calculated by measuring the number of Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALY's) gained through exercise in greenspace. The QALY gained is expressed in monetary terms using the HM Treasury Green Book value of QALY. We predict an increase physical health benefit form £1.8m to £2.37m/ annum (570k) for the park. Prorate to £114,000 for Acorn Farm @20%.

Amenity value measures people preference for living close to greenspace, which is expressed by their willingness to pay in the housing market. The uplift value based on the hedonic pricing model from ONS and are annualized over 30 years at a 3.5% discount rate. We predict an increase in property value uplift from £8,222 will remain the same

Carbon sequestration methodology estimates the value of captured carbon currently at carbon storage value £5,200 – no increase predicted

Skills, Jobs and Learning Opportunities The project will generate 3 full time posts (+ 2 part time) to manage/maintain Acorn Farm . In will support learning opportunities for 50 young people/ annum.

Economic Impact applying AIM Economic Value of the Independent Museum Sector (2019) see above. The economic benefits see 4.5 of detailed analysis

5.3 Economic costs of proposal

5.3a Please explain the economic costs of the bid. Costs should be consistent with the costs in the financial case, but adjusted for the economic case. This should include but not be limited to providing evidence of costs having been adjusted to an appropriate base year and that inflation has been included or taken into account. In addition, please provide detail that cost risks and uncertainty have been considered and adequately quantified. Optimism bias must also be included in the cost estimates in the economic case. (Limit 500 words)

Project Costings

Sammon Surveyors carried out an Order of Costs (15th June 2021)

- 15% has been added to the costings for professional fees.
- A risk allowance of 15% has been included.
- The costing allow for an Inflation figure of 7.5%.
- Optimum Bias has been calculated using the Department of Finance Mott McDonald OB Calculator and HM Treasury formulas– the OB for the project is set at 10% based on Standard Civil Engineering (+£565,700)
- Therefore when considering QS costing, professional fees, Risk Allowance (£5,657,000) & OB the Total Estimate Project cost is **£6,222,700 + VAT**

Costs Risks & Uncertainties

Every project is subject to risk of a certain level throughout its lifetime. The QS advises that all building projects involve risks, some obvious some less so; the proper management of risk saves time and money. Risks can occur at any point in a building project and it is essential that they are identified, assessed, monitored and controlled. We have made separate risk allowances for each of the following:

1. **Design development risks** – an allowance for use during the design process to provide for the risks associated with design development, changes in estimating data, third party risks (e.g. planning requirements, legal agreements, covenants, environmental issues and pressure groups), statutory requirements, procurement methodology and delays in tendering.

2. **Construction risks** – an allowance for use during the construction process to provide for the risks associated with site conditions (e.g. access restrictions/limitations, existing buildings, boundaries, and existing occupants and users), ground conditions, existing services and delays by statutory undertakers.
3. **Employer change risks** – an allowance for use during both the design process and the construction process to provide for the risks of employer driven changes (e.g. changes in scope of works or brief, changes in quality and changes in time).
4. **Employer other risks** – an allowance for other employer risks (e.g. early handover, postponement, acceleration, availability of funds, liquidated damages or premiums on other contracts due to late provision of accommodation, unconventional tender action and special contract arrangements).

Cost risks have been considered in the QS costings in the sum of £686k (15%)

Project de-risking

The project has been significantly de-risked as the project has Full Planning Permission (Acorn Farm). Murray Architects are presently working on the Geodesic Domes to secure Building Control Approval.

Ground Investigation was undertaken to determine if there was any contamination on site. No contamination was found. 20 trial pits were excavated to quantify the depth of concrete hard stands so that these could be factored into the costings. Asbestos analysis results were negative.

A tree Surgeon was engaged to undertake a condition of the trees. An Invasive Species Action Plan was commissioned to eradicate Himalayan Balsam on site in 2018 – the site is now clean of invasive species.

A Bat Potential Roost Survey has also been commissioned.

Council has commenced tender for Phase 1 site clearance, to reduce risk when the larger project goes to site and achieve UKLUF spend by 31st March 2021.

5.4 Analysis of monetised costs and benefits

5.4a Please describe how the economic benefits have been estimated. These must be categorised according to different impact. Depending on the nature of intervention, there could be land value uplift, air quality benefits, reduce journey times, support economic growth, support employment, or reduce carbon emissions. (Limit 750 words)

Health & Wellbeing

Applying Council's Natural Capital Account (5.2a & 5.2b)

- 20,000 visitors to Acorn Farm per year =
- additional £200,000 per/annum in mental health benefits
- £114,000 in physical health benefits/annum.

Total Health & Wellbeing Benefit - **£314,000**

Economic Value

Applying AIM economic Value of the Independent Museum Sector (2019) Part A

Room/Venue Hire

It is estimated that Room/Venue Hire will generate **£20,000** pa income

Visitor Income

Projection: Acorn Farm has 20,000 visitors projected of which 15,000 were adults. We estimate that 40% are local visitors, 33% are day-trippers and 27% overnight visitors.

Off-Site Visitor Impacts

Total Spending Visitors 7,500 (50% of Adults)

Visitor spend rates taken from AIM

- Local visitors: 3,000 X £14.68 = £44,040.00
- Day trippers: 2,475 X £29.35= £72,641.25
- Overnight visitors: 2,025 X £54.03 = £109,410.75

Total gross visitor impacts = **£226,092**

Projection: On average, on-site spend per visitor at the park is estimated at £3.00.

Total Spending Visitors estimated at 7,500 (50% of Adults)

Visitor spend rates taken from AIM

- Local visitors: 3,000 X (£14.68 - £3.00) = £35,040.00
- Day trippers: 2,475 X (£29.35 - £3.00) = £65,216.25
- Overnight visitors: 2,025 X (£54.03 - £3.00) = £103,335.75

Total gross visitor impacts = **£203,592**

Therefore Direct Visitor spend on site at Acorn Farm is estimated at £22,500 pa (7,500 visitors X £3 per visitor)

Overall Employment Impacts: to express the impact of new employees in terms of the economic contribution to their local economy applying the steps below:

- Identify the total number of employees for the last complete year (if this has changed during the year, take an average from across the year) – planned
- Establish the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees planned 4 FTE
- Determine the proportion of FTE employees that **do not** live locally (i.e. in the local area where you are assessing the impact – e.g. in the local authority area where the Acorn Farm is located) and subtract this from the total. i.e. assume 100% live locally.
- Multiply the total number of FTE by £32,600 to get an estimate of overall turnover related to these jobs

Acorn Farm will employ 5 people, 3 of whom work full-time and 2 of whom work part-time.

The total number of FTE employees is 4 (i.e. $(3 \times 1) + (2 \times 0.5)$).

The total turnover value that can be attributed to this scale of employment is $(4 \times £32,600) = \text{£130,400}$.

Overall Impacts of Spend on Goods and Services: to express the impact of their spending on goods and services in terms of the economic contribution to their local economy.

- Establish the total amount spent on goods and services projected
- Determine the proportion of spend on goods and service with suppliers that **are not** based locally (i.e. in the local area where you are assessing the impact) and subtract this from the total

Projection: Acorn Farm spends a total of £49,000 on good and services each year. Assuming 30% is outside the area – (£14,700) therefore **£34,300** spent locally per annum.

Summary of benefits

Benefit	Monetary outcomes	Calculation	Non-monetary outcomes
Improved physical and mental health	Reduced costs to health services arising from use of greenspaces	VIVID Greenkeeper used	Longer, more active lives Greater life satisfaction
Improved education and skills	Higher employment rates More skilled employment	No tool yet identified	Greater life satisfaction
Community pride and cohesion	Lower housing turnover Higher house/rental values Increased local spend	No tool yet identified	Greater life satisfaction
Improved tourist experience	Greater local spend	AIM calculator used	Reputational enhancement of the City/District
Climate change mitigation on site	Overall carbon sequestered/Stored (minimal/negative?)	No tool yet identified	Reduced impacts from Climate Change
Climate change adaptation on site	Reduced heating/cooling costs from nature based solutions Reduced load on stormwater systems	No tool yet identified	Reduced disruption from
Climate change mitigation through behaviour change	Improvements to residential and horticultural carbon budgets	No tool yet identified	Reduced impacts from Climate Change
Climate change adaptation through behaviour change	Reduced load on stormwater systems from used of SUDS/NBS	No tool yet identified but possibly adapt Greater London Authority methodology for SuDS	Reduced impacts from Climate Change
Food market stimulation	Greater spend with local growers, processors and retailers More local food businesses	No tool yet identified	Better experiences for residents and visitors
Employment	More local spend from increased employment	AIM calculator used	

5.4b Please complete Tab A and B on the **appended excel spreadsheet** to demonstrate your:

Tab A - Discounted total costs by funding source (£m)

Tab B – Discounted benefits by category (£m)

5.5 Value for money of proposal

5.5a Please provide a summary of the overall Value for Money of the proposal. This should include reporting of Benefit Cost Ratios. If a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) has been estimated there should be a clear explanation of how this is estimated in a methodology note. Benefit Cost Ratios should be calculated in a way that is consistent with [HMT's Green Book](#). For non-transport bids it should be consistent with [MHCLG's appraisal guidance](#). For bids requesting funding for transport projects this should be consistent with [DfT Transport Analysis Guidance](#). (Limit 500 words)

The proposal, according to the methodology we have applied as outlined above, would have a Benefit Cost Ratio of 1.4

This will be significantly less than the actual Benefit Cost Ratio, as the table in section 5.4 identifies a number of monetary benefits for which we have not yet identified a suitable calculation mechanism: Of these, the most substantial are likely to be Improved education and skills; Climate change mitigation through behaviour change; and Food market stimulation.

We will develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to identify the main monetary benefits and appropriate economic assessment tools to provide a fuller Benefit Cost Ratio during the lifetime of the project.

In addition, the project will deliver a range of non-monetary benefits. These may be reflected in wider qualitative assessments such as resident satisfaction surveys, but as it will not be possible to isolate the impact of Acorn Farm we would not propose assessing them formally.

Acorn Farm will deliver the transformative change necessary to deliver a green recovery, which will benefit the local environment, economy and health and wellbeing. The creation of a climate smart sustainable food hub in the form of an iconic visitor destination will act as a catalyst for wider behavioural change and resilience while also delivering economic benefits through increased tourism and job creation in an area of high social deprivation. Acorn Farm has the potential to contribute to the regeneration of the North West towards a greener future.

5.5b Please describe what other non-monetised impacts the bid will have, and provide a summary of how these have been assessed. (Limit 250 words)

The benefits of Acorn Farm can be disaggregated into three categories: Health/social benefits, environmental benefits and economic benefits.

Acorn Farm is potentially a valuable economic driver delivering benefits to individuals, communities and public services. It offers opportunities for health, socialisation and physical activity. In addition, carbon sequestration, food resilience, wider social purpose, supporting social cohesion and forming part of a community identity.

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of publically accessible greenspace for health. Studies found that during the first lockdown in April 2020, UK Park visits increased by 150% compared to 2019.

Park and Open spaces themselves are popular visitor attractions. Research demonstrates that green space offers a range of non-monetary benefits including mental health and well-being, happiness and fitness/recreation attributed to green. Spending more time in greenspace has a positive impact on mental wellbeing and life satisfaction particular for urban dwellers.

Improved health can lead to lead increased productivity. Reduced disease burden can reduce pressures on the public health services. Research by English Nature suggests that using greenspace as part of a mental health treatment programme can deliver significant value for money.

Acorn Farm can play an important role in fostering social cohesion within communities. For many urban residents greenspaces symbolise belonging to a community and may have importance historical and cultural value.

Acorn Farm can promote positive societal interactions that cultivate social engagement. The therapeutic value of horticulture cannot be underestimated in with people interaction through the communal activity of growing, cooking and eating food.

5.5c Please provide a summary assessment of risks and uncertainties that could affect the overall Value for Money of the bid. (Limit 250 words)

Risks and Uncertainties

The framework around which the Risk Management Strategy for this project is built is the preparation and then continuous monitoring and updating of a project Risk Register (RR). The RR covers all aspects of the Project from inception through to completion including technical design, finance/funding, corporate, procurement, construction, consultation/engagement, etc. Each risk identified is rated for both the potential severity of its impact and the probability of it occurring. Mitigation measures are put in place to reduce the probability of the risk occurring and/or reduce the severity of its impact

Risks are prioritised by assigning them a 'traffic light' Red, Amber or Green status. Those with potentially high impact will be documented or exception reports for consideration by the Project Management Board. Where the impact extends beyond this project and is outside of the control of the PM that risk will be referred to the Project Management Board for direction.

Risks will be reviewed regularly by the PM and PS and will be updated at the end of each RIBA work stage. A Risk Workshop organised and facilitated by the PM, will be convened as soon as possible after ICT appointment involving all key personnel. An Action Plan will assign tasks are assigned to an individual, or team best suited to deal with the issue.

A copy of the current RR is appended to the Project Execution Plan. See section 5.3a above – whereby the QS has provided 15% of the costs allocated to Risk

5.5d For transport bids, we would expect the [Appraisal Summary Table](#), to be completed to enable a full range of transport impacts to be considered. Other material supporting the assessment of the scheme described in this section should be appended to your bid.

PART 6 DELIVERABILITY

6.1 Financial

See technical note Table 1 for further guidance.

6.1a Please summarise below your financial ask of the LUF, and what if any local and third party contributions have been secured (please note that a minimum local (public or private sector) contribution of 10% of the bid costs is encouraged). Please also note that a contribution will be expected from private sector stakeholders, such as developers, if they stand to benefit from a specific bid (Limit 250 words)

The capital cost of the project is as follows as per the attached QS Order of Costs dated 15th June 2021

QS Project Element	Cost
Acorn Farm Site	£1,391,000
Geodesic Dome	£1,862,000
Gate Lodge	£207,000
Contractor Prelims, overheads, profit	£519,000
Other; fees, utilities @ 15%	£597,000
Risk Allowance @ 15%	£689,000
Inflation	£395,000
Project Cost	£5,657,000

Total Project Element	Cost
Acorn Farm Site (see above)	£5,657,000
OB at 10%	£565,700
Total Project Cost	£6,222,700

Request from UK LUF

Councils is seeking 90% of the total project cost in the sum of **£5,600,430** excluding VAT as Council is VAT registered and will claim back VAT. Council will contribute the remaining 10% (£622,270) to the project to complete the funding package and contribute 100% to the future operational and management costs of the site if no other funding is secured whilst the project is being developed.

Financial Risk & Cost Over run

The Chief Finance Officer confirms that Council is committed through reprioritisation origination of its capital programme to picking up any cost overruns beyond OB in order to secure this funding.

6.1b Please also complete Tabs C and D in the **appended excel spreadsheet**, setting out details of the costs and spend profile at the project and bid level in the format requested within the excel sheet. The funding detail should be as accurate as possible as it will form the basis for funding agreements. Please note that we would expect all funding provided from the Fund to be spent by 31 March 2024, and, exceptionally, into 2024-25 for larger schemes.

Tables completed and submitted as part of this application.

6.1c Please confirm if the bid will be part funded through other third-party funding (public or private sector). If so, please include evidence (i.e. letters, contractual commitments) to show how any third-party contributions are being secured, the level of commitment and when they will become available. The UKG may accept the provision of land from third parties as part of the local contribution towards scheme costs. Where relevant, bidders should provide evidence in the form of an attached letter from an independent valuer to verify the true market value of the land.

Yes

No

6.1d Please explain what if any funding gaps there are, or what further work needs to be done to secure third party funding contributions. (Limit 250 words)

On the proviso that the UK LUF will fund 90% of the project, no other funding gap is forecast given that Council will support the remaining 10% to complete the funding package in full.

Council will need to prepare a 10 year fully costed Management & Maintenance Plan (MMP) for Acorn Farm and commit to the revenue uplift to manage the site to ensure the long term investment of UKLUF and Council's contribution to developing Acorn Farm.

Council has extensive experience in Park's Management having learned from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Regeneration of Brooke Park in 2016. A draft cost MMP has been prepared supporting an annual revenue cost of £195k/annum, with an underestimated income of £20K at this stage. It is proposed that Council would make provision of these costs to endure the ongoing sustainability of the project.

Depending on the outcome of the UKLUF application, Council and its project partners (Acorn Fund, The Conservation Volunteers and University College Cork) narrative with the National Lottery Community Fund (UK Climate Action Fund) may have more emphasis on the need for revenue to run wider programme activity. There is some time to consider the position, as the Climate Action fund opens for round 2 calls in June 2022.

6.1e Please list any other funding applications you have made for this scheme or variants thereof and the outcome of these applications, including any reasons for rejection. (Limit 250 words)

There are presently no other funding application pending at the time of submitting this funding application.

However, we are in constant communication with the UK Climate Action Fund as we hold a development grant of £200,000 to develop our project as outline above. We are eligible to submit an application to this programme when it opens in June/July 2022 for up to £2.5 million. The National Community Lottery are opening to receiving an application for our community partner The Acorn Fund and favour a capital/revenue split.

We have a strong working relationship with the local Department for Communities (Dfc) – and have just received a letter of Offer in the sum of £205,535 to regenerate an existing car park in close proximity to Acorn Farm to bring this up to the appropriate standard (inclusive of DDA provision) which will support visitors to the site. In addition, it will have a new pedestrian entrance linking the park into the Ebrington for better connectivity.

6.1f Please provide information on margins and contingencies that have been allowed for and the rationale behind them. (Limit 250 words)

Financial provision has been made, as percentage of the initial estimated construction order of cost, to allow for the inevitable increase in the cost of the project as the design evolves from its current conceptual stage to the completed technical design at RIBA Work Stage 4 (i.e. when going out to tender).

The project elements has been costed by Sammon Surveyors dated 15th June 2021. A copy of this Order of Cost is attached in this application.

- The QS has costed the project risk at 15% of the capital cost this is based on RIBA Guidance. A breakdown of these risks are presented in 5.3a above.
- The QS has added in inflation at 7.5% based on experience – this is slightly higher than would normally be anticipated – however, is based on professional opinion the way the market place in NI is going.
- Council has applied the Mott McDonald OB Calculator to estimate the OB required for the project based on complexity and confirm the following @10%

The rationale for using the Matt McDonald OB Calculator is there is a demonstrated, systematic tendency for project appraisers to be overly optimistic. Many project parameters are affected by optimism; appraisers tend to overstate benefits and understate timescales and costs, both capital and operational. It may occur, for example, through failing to reflect fully the chances of cost underestimation or time overruns; or by including projections of demand that are too generous.

6.1g Please set out below, what the main financial risks are and how they will be mitigated, including how cost overruns will be dealt with and shared between non-UKG funding partners. (you should cross refer to the Risk Register). (Limit 500 words)

Council has a demonstrable track record delivering externally part-funded capital build Strong Governance is essential for effective project management and delivery.

Council adopt the Department of Finance ‘*Achieving Excellence in Construction Initiative*’. This aims to improve project management and delivery, measure key aspects of performance, develop an integrated culture within project teams and achieve maximum benefits.

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications/achieving-excellence-initiative-northern-ireland>

Attached is a project delivery of Project Execution Plan (PEP) & Risk Register (RR). This is a key management document which will governs, the project deliverable, procedures, organisation and responsibilities.

Financial Risk Mitigation & Cost Control

The objectives of cost management is to deliver a quality project, complying with guidelines and best practice. This will ensure full and proper accounts of all transactions, payments and changes are monitored throughout the project.

A monthly Global Cost Plan (GCP) setting out the planned, actual and forecast financial status of the project will be present at Project Governance Meeting for accountability and transparency of financial decision making.

The Project Sponsors will operate change control procedures, manage risk contingency and optimism bias allowances expenditure (in conjunction with the SRO) and initiate action to avoid over spend on the basis of the approved budget set out in the GCP.

The following principles of cost management will be applied to all cost management activities for the project:

- Ensure that all costs are monitored against the targets set out in the business case throughout all stages of the project.
- Scope – defining what is to be included in the project and limiting expenditure accordingly;
- Programme – defining the project programme from inception to completion ensuring a logical and realistic approach. Cost estimates and spend profiles should be consistent with the programme;
- Commitments – ensuring that orders are properly authorised;
- Risk allowance – ensuring all expenditure relating to risks is appropriately allocated from the OB allowance and properly authorised; and monitoring use of risk contingency and OB allowances (in conjunction with the SRO/project board) to assess impact on overall out turn cost;
- Spend Profile – planning and controlling both commitments and expenditure within budgets so that unexpected cost over/under runs do not result; ensuring that all transactions are properly recorded and authorised and decisions are justified.

Changes to the project, especially after contract award, are one of the major causes of cost overruns and of not achieving value for money. Their consequences during the delivery stage can be proportionately much greater than their direct impacts. The need for changes will be minimised by:

- Ensuring that the project design brief is comprehensive and has the project stakeholder's agreement;
- Ensuring that Work Plan are fully developed and co-ordinated before tendering for supplies or appointments
- Contracts are committed;

- Good project management by the Lead and Partners to the Project, including forward planning and coordination; and
- Identifying and managing risks.

Cost Over Run

Council is committed through reprioritisation origination of its capital programme to picking up any cost overruns beyond OB in order to secure this funding.

6.2 Commercial

See technical note Section 4 and Table 1 for further guidance.

6.2a Please summarise your commercial structure, risk allocation and procurement strategy which sets out the rationale for the strategy selected and other options considered and discounted. The procurement route should also be set out with an explanation as to why it is appropriate for a bid of the scale and nature submitted.

Please note - all procurements must be made in accordance with all relevant legal requirements. Applicants must describe their approach to ensuring full compliance in order to discharge their legal duties. (Limit 500 words)

Commercial Structure: DCSDC was created in 2014 as part of the NI local government reform, replacing Derry City Council and Strabane District Council – established 1st April 2015.

Risk Allowance: Council will apply the Department of Finances Step six: assess risks and adjust for optimism bias. Council will concentrates on following principles elements of risk analysis:

- identify and analyse risks
- adjust for optimism bias
- risk management and risk reduction strategies

Identify and analyse risks: Council acknowledged that risk arises because of the possibility of more than one outcome occurring.

- construction costs depend on ground conditions, or the weather
- operating costs depend on the success of a new technology
- the demand for an outcome or output depends on future incomes
- there are uncertainties Brexit and Covid

Council has carried out a high-level Risk Analysis to help inform the adjustments for optimism bias and identification of risk management and reduction measures.

Risk	Explanation
1. Skills & Experience	Running gardens, heritage centre and permaculture farm along with potential food markets simultaneously within a wider functioning park represents a risk; and requires right skills and experience
2. Sustainability	Risk that partners don't work effectively together to secure, maintain and regenerate the site; and bring in insufficient staff, contractors, volunteers, funding and/or resources to sustain the site over the longer-term
3. Funding Failure & Site Degradation	Without visitor income or a clear commercial angle; funding is a necessity. The need to secure sufficient capital and ongoing revenue funding represents a risk; especially if public funding is curtailed in the future
4. Public Perception	A failure to address needs, and improve the Park is perceived by the public
5. Visitor Numbers	Number of visitors declines; and/or visitor numbers rise above expectations creating additional stress on space, services and staff

Risk Management Strategy: The Risk Register produced at this stage will form part of an overall Risk Management Strategy. This sets out how identified risks will be proactively controlled and what actions should be taken if risks materialise. Risk Management will be a standing item on the Project Governance Meetings.

Council has prepared a Draft Risk Register. This identifies each relevant risk and compares how it impacts upon each option. It covers economic risks and uncertainties, such as possible variations in cost/benefit assumptions, and relevant managerial, legal, financing and other risks and uncertainties. A copy of the Risk Register is enclosed.

Optimism Bias Components	Rationale
Procurement	DCSDC are familiar with large-scale procurement. This project would have to go through the European Journal, which would add time. Procurement will reduce but cannot negate the risk of poor contractor capability (as cost may be afforded a higher weighting than quality in final decision). Dispute and claims should be reduced by close working, preparation and communication but given the heritage, biodiversity, existing businesses, tight car-parking and well-loved park; plus number of elements and sub-contractors – there will be some residual risk
Project Specific	There is a degree of innovation, but for the most part it is standard build and civil engineering works. To a large extent known risks and can be partially mitigated; whilst a small allowance must always be factored in for unknown risks
Client Specific	Permaculture, is a new areas for the project partners, which presents risks that can't be fully mitigated at this stage
Environment & External	Regenerating the site should be publicly supported, but there will be some disruption to the Park Work/costing are based on existing ground conditions, there is always a risk that something will be found that could delay project when construction starts.
External Services	Brexit, Covid -19 and other socio-political and economic factors could play a large part in availability of finance, cost of materials and visitor numbers. Working with new permaculture, horticulture will increase compliance (e.g. health and safety, welfare) requirements, presenting a possible risk

Adjust for Optimum Bias: Council has applied the Mott MacDonald OB Calculator to provide adjustment percentages for the Acorn Farm Project (see above).

Procurement Strategy: The project procurement process will bear in mind the UK-EU Trade and Co-operation Agreement, which covers public procurement, and will be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU.

DCSDC has in place robust procurement and governance procedures. Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) advice and guidance will be sought and utilised where appropriate.

The devolved government requirements in relation to procurement are set out in the Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy. CPD have compiled a '*Northern Ireland Public Procurement Policy Handbook*' which states that '*As regards District Councils, the Executive accepts that their different and separate framework of accountability must be recognised and, under existing legislation, compliance with this policy can only be on a voluntary basis. However as is the case for all NI public sector bodies, District Councils are subject to UK and EU Procurement Legislation*'.

Council has progressed with a smaller contract for site demolition/clearance in advance of the larger capital build to de-risk the project and achieve UKLUF spend by 31st March 2022.

The larger project is above threshold and will be advertised in the EU Journal.

A Design & Build contract has been discounted in favour of a conventional procurement route to ensure and manage the quality of the end product. NEC3 contracts will be used.

6.3 Management

See technical note Section 4 and Table 1 for further guidance

Delivery Plan: Places are asked to submit a delivery plan which demonstrates:

- Clear milestones, key dependencies and interfaces, resource requirements, task durations and contingency.
- An understanding of the roles and responsibilities, skills, capability, or capacity needed.
- Arrangements for managing any delivery partners and the plan for benefits realisation.
- Engagement of developers/ occupiers (where needed)
- The strategy for managing stakeholders and considering their interests and influences.
- Confirmation of any powers or consents needed, and statutory approvals eg Planning permission and details of information of ownership or agreements of land/ assets needed to deliver the bid with evidence
- Please also list any powers / consents etc needed/ obtained, details of date acquired, challenge period (if applicable) and date of expiry of powers and conditions attached to them.

6.3a Please summarise the delivery plan, with reference to the above (Limit 500 words)

Clear milestones, key dependencies and interfaces, resource requirements, task durations and contingency.

A project Programme dated 14/04/2021 is attached in with the application in the PEP
Milestones are as follows:

Pre-site Clearance	Start	Finish
UKLUF – LOO	August 2021	
Procurement of IST	June 2021	November 2021
Contractor Appointment	December 2021	
Commence on site	January 2022	
Completion		31 st March 2022

Main Contract	Start	Finish
Procurement of ICT	August 2021	January 2022
ICT Appointment	February 2022	
Procurement of IST	April 2022	October 2022
Appointment of IST	November 2022	
Commence on site	January 2023	
Completion		December 2023

Task Duration: Estimated 30 months

Key Dependencies: are set out in the PEP.

Resources required employ an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) deliver the main project from RIBA Stage 3 to RIBA Stage 7.

Contingency/OB: is outlined at 10% above applying the Mott McDonald calculator

- An understanding of the roles and responsibilities, skills, capability, or capacity needed.

Council adopts UK government's *'Achieving Excellence in Construction'* initiative set up by the former Office of Government Commerce (OGC) for project management and delivery. This Central Government Guidance sets out a framework for the effective delivery of capital build project. Specific roles as Investment Decision Maker, Senior Responsible Officer, Project Sponsor, and Project Manager are well defined and understood. See PEP.

Council adopts Guidance on procurement of works and services is set out in the Central Procurement Directorate's Procurement Guidance Note 06/10 '*Procurement of Construction Work and Services*'.

Council has a demonstrable track record in the delivery of capital projects though it's Green Infrastructure Team and internal Design/Capital Build Section supported by our Strategic Funding/ Finance Unit. Since 2015 Council has delivered £68m of capital projects a further £115m are approved for funding.

- Arrangements for managing any delivery partners and the plan for benefits realisation.

Council will establish sound project management and governance arrangements. A Project Steering Group will be established for the effective day-to-day management of the project. This Steering Group will report to a Project Board. This Board will have oversight of the project deliverables ensuring that objectives of the programme are being met. A yearly calendar of meetings will be established for the outset aligned to an agreed agenda. A benefits Realisation Plan will be agreed with all parties to understand, record and monitor the benefits of the project.

- Engagement of developers/ occupiers (where needed)

Council is the developer and owns the lands (Registered Folio 20257) to be developed as freehold. There are no occupiers on site.

- The strategy for managing stakeholders and considering their interests and influences.

Council will involve stakeholders central to the project delivery in the management and development of the project. Council will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to actively engage with interested parties as the project develops. Elected Members will receive updates at Committee to keep them apprised of the project

- Confirmation of any powers or consents needed, and statutory approvals eg. Planning permission and details of information of ownership or agreements of land/ assets needed to deliver the bid with evidence

<p>(a) The Acorn Farm Site: the project has full planning permission (LA1/2017/1110F) - 8th March 2019.</p> <p>(b) The Gate lodge: A planning application has been lodged on the 18th June 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please also list any powers / consents etc needed/ obtained, details of date acquired, challenge period (if applicable) and date of expiry of powers and conditions attached to them. <p>(a) The Acorn Farm Site: Murray Architects have been appointed to bring the geodesic domes to RIBA Stage 4 and submit an application to Building Control by August 2021</p> <p>(b) The Gate lodge: Tracey Architects have been appointed to lodge an application to Building Control by July 2021.</p>		
<p>6.3b Has a delivery plan been appended to your bid?</p> <p>See attached Appendix C Project Execution Plan (PEP) dated 16 June 2021</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>6.3c Can you demonstrate ability to begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22?</p> <p>Yes, LUF funds can be spent within this financial year. Demolition is costed at £140k</p> <p>See attached Appendix E Project Programme dated 14th June 2021</p>		<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

6.3e Risk Management: Places are asked to set out a detailed risk assessment which sets out (word limit 500 words not including the risk register):

- the barriers and level of risk to the delivery of your bid
- appropriate and effective arrangements for managing and mitigating these risk
- a clear understanding on roles / responsibilities for risk
-

The technical, legal, ecological and financial barriers to risk and mitigation have been considered in the following table:

	Acorn Farm	Gate lodge	Comment
Technical	The Designs are to RIBA Stage 4 (Gravity Architects) – Murray Architects have been commissioned to secure Building Control for the Geodesic Dome.	Designs are to RIBA Stage 4 (Tracy Architects). The risk of achieving BC is deemed low for a modest building	Designs are well advanced and team has been appointed to secure Building Control approval by September 2021 to reduce risks for the building structured Council has strong project management governance in place and experience in developing and delivering capital build projects.
Legal	Council owned lands. The project has secured full planning permission.	Council owned lands. Full planning permission required.	There are no legal impediments or protracted land negotiations required
Ecological	Bat survey commissioned. An in-house Tree Survey commissioned.	Bat survey commissioned. An in-house Tree Survey commissioned.	Council’s Biodiversity Officer is part of the project delivery team and is managing the ecological aspects of the project to minimise risk

<p>Financial</p> <p>A Ground Investigation was commissioned, no contamination on site. Trial holes in May 2021 complete.</p> <p>Sammon Surveyors undertake an order costings</p> <p>The Project funding strategy agreed Risk, inflation, professional fees, and OB applied</p> <p>The project can commence this financial year –with site clearance – tender action underway</p>	<p>Site straightforward as green field</p> <p>Sammon Surveyors undertake an order of costs</p> <p>The Project funding strategy agreed</p> <p>Risk, inflation, professional fees, and OB applied</p> <p>The project commence next financial year when statutory approvals in place</p>	<p>The QS has built is a Risk cost of £680k into the bid to cover for 'risk' – see Qs Costings</p> <p>The costing are dated 15 June 2021 are upto date - copy attached in application</p> <p>Council has agreed the 10% match funding contribution to the capital build</p> <p>Sammon Surveyors have applied a 15% risk, 15% fees and 10% OB to the costings</p> <p>Council has progressed with tender action for Acorn Farm site clearance to minimise risk when the larger project goes to site and demonstrate UKLUF funds by 31st March 2022</p>	
<p>RAG</p>	<p>Low Risk</p>	<p>Medium Risk</p>	<p>High Risk</p>

Analysis of Risk: The majority of the risks are rated as Low. The Moderate risk relates to cost certainty prior to tender. Risks will be reviewed at every gateway as the project progresses.

Management of Risk, Roles & Responsibilities : The management of risk is outlined in the attached PEP in Council will apply 'Achieving Excellence in Construction' which outlined the roles, responsibilities and duties of specific team members for the Senior Responsible Officer, Project Sponsor, Project Manager and the Investment Decision Maker (IDM) as well as the Integrated Consultant Team, Integrated Supply Chain and Client Advisor/s. These are fully described fully in the enclosed Project Execution Plan.

6.3f Has a risk register been appended to your bid?

Yes

See attached Appendix D
Project Risk Register dated 14th
June 2021

No

6.3g Please evidence your track record and past experience of delivering schemes of a similar scale and type (Limit 250 words)

Council has demonstrable experience in delivering capital build projects –

Brooke Park, Derry

Council let a contract in February 2015 for the major restoration of this listed historic urban park. Building works included the construction of a new Café Pavilion (174m²), a new Contact Sports Centre (892m²), a Horticultural Training Centre (273m²) and the refurbishment of the existing listed Gate Lodge. External works included refurbishment of the listed masonry site boundary walls, the construction of a floodlit 3G MUGA, a large formal pond, play area, paths and paving, external lighting and extensive replanting planting works. The contract was completed on 19th August 2016 and had a total capital value of £6.5m (Ex. VAT).

Brandywell Stadium

Council are owners of the Brandywell Stadium, which acts the home ground of League of Ireland Premiership club Derry City FC. The stadium lacked any substantial capital investment over a thirty year period. In late 2016, Council let a contract for the complete refurbishment of the stadium and grounds, consisting of:

- Demolition of existing West Stand & terracing and construction of new 1,500 covered spectator stand housing changing and club facilities (1,000m²), all to UEFA CAT 1 standard.
- A FIFA 2 Star artificial turf pitch, suitable UEFA level competition football.
- A new separate dog racing track, covered stand and associated facilities.
- Extensive site works, including new car parking and site boundary walls.

The contract was completed on 1st March 2018 and the project had a total capital value of **£7.4M** (Ex. VAT).

6.3h Assurance: We will require Chief Financial Officer confirmation that adequate assurance systems are in place.

For larger transport projects (between £20m - £50m) please provide evidence of an integrated assurance and approval plan. This should include details around planned health checks or gateway reviews. (Limit 250 words)

DCSDC's financial statements are prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, annual Circular LG 03/20. Council executes its responsibilities under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (NI) 2015. The Chief Financial Officer executes their responsibilities under Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Council has an Annual Governance Statement in line with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government available at www.derrystrabane.com.

This statement explains how the Council meets the requirements of Regulation 4 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (N) 2015 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control. The Project will be delivered under this corporate governance framework and will be managed as follows: responsibility for the project will be with DCSDC's Environment and Regeneration Directorate under the Environment Section; supported by a Directorate Accountant from the Strategic Finance and Funding section; a dedicated cost centre to control spend for which management accounts will be prepared and reported to Senior Management on a monthly basis; and corporate governance, assurance and internal audit will be overseen by the Council's Assurance Section.

The Project's dedicated Manager will be supported by a range of corporate support staff and services such as personnel, finance, marketing, health and safety and corporate capital accountant.

6.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

See technical note Section 4 and Table 1 for further guidance.

6.4a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: Please set out proportionate plans for M&E which should include (1000 word limit):

- Bid level M&E objectives and research questions
- Outline of bid level M&E approach
- Overview of key metrics for M&E (covering inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts), informed by bid objectives and Theory of Change. Please complete Tabs E and F on the **appended excel spreadsheet**
- Resourcing and governance arrangements for bid level M&E

Evaluation of the Acorn Farm project to '*maximise the Park as a natural capital asset for the environmental, economic and social wellbeing of our community*' will be undertaken via a phased approach.

A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework provides a methodology for the effective measurement of success.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan aims are;

- To monitor and evaluate the successful implementation of the Project Execution Plan
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation and review of intended project outputs, outcomes and impacts
- Ensure objective and transparent evaluation of the Acorn Farm project
- Ensure all project partners feed into the monitoring and evaluation of the project

Phase 1 of the evaluation M&E activity will focus on collection of appropriate baseline data, evaluation of the delivery of the PEP, inputs and outputs.

Phase 2 evaluate the longer-term outcomes and impacts. A Project Monitoring Matrix guides the organisation of data and collected evidence outlining the intended outputs, outcomes and evaluation methods used for each. An accompanying action plan will set timescales and data collection responsibilities and evaluation throughout the project.

Project Management		
Project Delivery	Objective	Monitoring & Evaluation Methodology / Data
Project Management and delivery of PEP	Effective management and delivery of project consortium, aims, actions and targets	<p>Number of steering group and project board meetings held</p> <p>Monthly project management reports</p> <p>Delivery of project activities within timescales outlined in PEP</p> <p>Production of necessary project reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Execution Plan including governance arrangements and appointment of project board & steering group • Risk Register • Communication Plan • Monitoring & Evaluation Framework • Post Project Evaluation Plan
Management of Funding & Budget Monitoring	Budget monitoring and reporting – delivery of activities within budget constraints	<p>Financial monitoring by the Project Board and Steering Group and Council’s Strategic Funding & Finance Dept will ensure that all monies committed to the project are being used economically and effectively.</p> <p>CPD advice and support provided</p> <p>Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports produced whereby Actual capital expenditure will be monitored against projected expenditure</p>
Project Inputs	£5,601,600 invested in Acorn Farm through Levelling Up Fund	Confirmed offer of funding & drawdown of funds

	Focus on green recovery	Analysis and reporting of socio-economic profile changes / impacts Development of climate smart technology and monitoring of associated resource savings / resilience
	Balanced regional development	Analysis and reporting of socio-economic profile changes / impacts
Project Outputs	High quality innovative urban food growing hub	Construction of Acorn Farm Geodesic Dome & Green Academy
	Learning and Skills Development Centre (Green Skills Academy)	Construction & operation of Green Skills Academy
	Sustainable Food events venue	Number of sustainable food events held per annum
	High quality sustainable visitor infrastructure / proposition / experience	Development of Acorn Farm site / visitor destination Tourism NI Visitor Experience Quality Grading Scheme Analysis of NITB Visitor Experience & Attitude Survey, Visitor Satisfaction Rating, Mystery Visitor Assessment, Visitor Numbers Achieve Green Tourism Certification
	Support infrastructure (The Gatelodge) for Acorn Farm teams	Construction of the Gatelodge

Phase 2 Monitoring & Evaluation Matrix

Outcomes	Impacts	Monitoring & Evaluation Methodology / Data
Improvements in mental well being	Changes in Health: positive impact on physical, mental health and well-being, social capital and cohesion	Analysis of NISRA health statistics and DCSDC Natural Capital Account
Improvements in physical well-being and diet		
Improved life satisfaction		Analysis of NISRA health statistics and DCSDC Natural Capital Account & User Surveys
Reduced disease burden leading to reduced pressure on the health service		Analysis of NISRA health statistics
Mitigate impacts of climate change and increase food resilience	Changes in Ethos – A Permaculture Based Approach; facilitated through Life Long Learning, food growing projects and food governance. Changes in Technology; facilitated by innovative climate proofed and sustainable food growing hub showcasing new resilient and net zero technologies.	Analysis of UCC Food System Research & DCSDC Area Greenhouse gas emissions data Climate Smart technology & energy efficiency statistics Site Waste Statistics
Reduced greenhouse gas emissions through low carbon technologies and local food production		
Increased natural capital		Analysis of DCSDC Natural Capital Account
High quality neutral space for learning and skills development based on food growing	Changes in Behaviour – Diet; facilitated through pop up markets, availability of locally grown food and programmes and events. Changes in Culture; facilitated by associated learning and skills development programmes	Construction & operation of Green Skills Academy & analysis of user feedback Level of community participation in learning and skills programmes
New space for events and festivals		

Increased visitor and tourism numbers to city and district creating opportunities for investment, job creation, and infrastructure spend	Contribute to green economic recovery / Economic Regeneration	Analysis of NISRA / CSO & Tourism NI Statistics
Increase in property values		Analysis of NISRA House Price Index, DCSDC Natural Capital Account & LPS Rates Valuation
Increased skills development and employment opportunities in green recovery		Analysis of NISRA Labour Market & Social Welfare Statistics, NISRA Higher Education & Training Statistics NISRA Socio-economic & Deprivation Statistics

The following factors will be closely monitored during and after project implementation:

- Capital Costs
- Revenue Costs
- Maintenance Costs
- User Numbers
- Number of FTE jobs
- Increased visitor numbers
- Natural Capital Accounting
- Socio-economic & Deprivation indicators
- Health indicators

One year must elapse post project completion before the benefits can be reasonably assessed. A Post Project Evaluation (PPE) will therefore be carried out at the end of 2024.

The Project Steering Group will support an independent Consultant to complete the PPE to include the following elements.

Costs:

- Comparison of the estimated and actual capital costs with any variances explained.
- Comparison of the estimated and actual maintenance costs with any variances explained.

Project Management:

- An assessment of the effectiveness of the project management team.
- An evaluation of lessons learned with respect to how the project was managed / implemented.

Objectives / Outcomes / Impacts:

An assessment of the degree to which the objectives /outcomes and impacts have been achieved.

Benefits:

- An evaluation of the extent to which the envisaged benefits in fact materialized.
- An examination of whether any disbenefits occurred.

PART 7 DECLARATIONS

7.1 Senior Responsible Owner Declaration

As Senior Responsible Owner for [*Acorn Farm*] I hereby submit this request for approval to UKG on behalf of [*Derry City & Strabane District Council*] and confirm that I have the necessary authority to do so.

I confirm that [*Derry City & Strabane District Council*] will have all the necessary statutory powers and other relevant consents in place to ensure the planned timescales in the application can be realised.

Name: Karen Phillips

Signed:



7.2 Chief Finance Officer Declaration

As Chief Finance Officer for [*Derry City & Strabane District Council*] I declare that the scheme cost estimates quoted in this bid are accurate to the best of my knowledge and that [*Derry City & Strabane District Council*]

- has allocated sufficient budget to deliver this scheme on the basis of its proposed funding contribution
- accepts responsibility for meeting any costs over and above the UKG contribution requested, including potential cost overruns and the underwriting of any funding contributions expected from third parties
- accepts responsibility for meeting any ongoing revenue requirements in relation to the scheme
- accepts that no further increase in UKG funding will be considered beyond the maximum contribution requested and that no UKG funding will be provided after 2024-25
- confirm that the authority commits to ensure successful bids will deliver value for money or best value.
- confirms that the authority has the necessary governance / assurance arrangements in place and that all legal and other statutory obligations and consents will be adhered to.

Name: Alfie Dallas

Signed:



7.3 Data Protection

Please note that the The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is a data controller for all Levelling Up Fund related personal data collected with the relevant forms submitted to MHCLG, and the control and processing of Personal Data.

The Department, and its contractors where relevant, may process the Personal Data that it collects from you, and use the information provided as part of the application to the Department for funding from the Levelling Up Fund, as well as in accordance with its privacy policies. For the purposes of assessing your bid the Department may need to share your Personal Data with other Government departments and departments in the Devolved Administrations and by submitting this form you are agreeing to your Personal Data being used in this way.

Any information you provide will be kept securely and destroyed within 7 years of the application process completing.

You can find more information about how the Department deals with your data [here](#).

Annex A - Project One Summary (only required for a package bid)

Project 1	
A1. Project Name:	
A2. Strategic Linkage to bid: Please enter a brief explanation of how this project links strategically to the overall bid. (in no more than 100 words)	
A3. Geographical area: Please provide a short description of the area covered by the bid (<u>in no more than 100 words</u>)	
A4. OS Grid Reference	
A5. Postcode	
A6. For Counties, Greater London Authority and Combined Authorities/Mayoral Combined Authorities, please provide details of the district council or unitary authority where the bid is located (or predominantly located)	
A7. Please append a map showing the location (and where applicable the route) of the proposed scheme, existing transport infrastructure and other points of particular interest to the bid e.g. development sites, areas of existing employment, constraints etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
A8. Project theme Please select the project theme	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport investment <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration and town centre investment <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural investment
A9. Value of capital grant being requested for this project (£):	
A10. Value of match funding and sources (£):	
A11. Value for Money	

<p>This section should set out the full range of impacts – both beneficial and adverse – of the project. Where possible, impacts should be described, quantified and also reported in monetary terms. However there may be some impacts where only a qualitative assessment is possible due to limitations in the available analysis. There should be a clear and detailed explanation of how all impacts reported have been identified, considered and analysed. When deciding what are the most significant impacts to consider, bidders should consider what impacts and outcomes the project is intended to achieve, taking into account the strategic case, but should also consider if there are other possible significant positive or negative impacts, to the economy, people, or environment (Limit 250 word)</p>	
<p>A12. It will be generally expected that an overall Benefit Cost Ratio and Value for Money Assessment will be reported in applications. If this is not possible, then the application should include a clear explanation of why not.</p>	
<p>A13. Where available, please provide the BCR for this project</p>	
<p>A14. Does your proposal deliver strong non-monetised benefits? Please set out what these are and evidence them.</p>	
<p>A15. Deliverability Deliverability is one of the key criteria for this Fund and as such any bid should set out any necessary statutory procedures that are needed before it can be constructed.</p>	
<p>A16. The Bid – demonstrating investment or ability to begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22</p> <p>As stated in the prospectus UKG seeks for the first round of the funding that priority will be given to bids that can demonstrate investment and ability to deliver on the ground in 2021-22</p>	
<p>A17. Does this project includes plans for some LUF expenditure in 2021-22?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>A18. Could this project be delivered as a standalone project or do it require to be part of the overall bid?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

A19. Please provide evidence	
A20. Can you demonstrate ability to deliver on the ground in 2021-22.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
A21. Please provide evidence	
Statutory Powers and Consents	
A22. Please list separately each power / consents etc obtained, details of date acquired, challenge period (if applicable) and date of expiry of powers and conditions attached to them. Any key dates should be referenced in your project plan.	
A23. Please list separately any <u>outstanding</u> statutory powers / consents etc, including the timetable for obtaining them.	

Annex B - Project Two description and funding profile (only required for package bid)

Project 2	
B1. Project Name	
B2. Strategic Linkage to bid: Please enter a brief explanation of how this project links strategically to the overall bid. (in no more than 100 words)	
B3. Geographical area: Please provide a short description of the area covered by the bid (<u>in no more than 100 words</u>)	
B4. OS Grid Reference	
B5. Postcode	
B6. For Counties, Greater London Authority and Combined Authorities/Mayoral Combined Authorities, please provide details of the district council or unitary authority where the bid is located (or predominantly located)	
B7. Please append a map showing the location (and where applicable the route) of the proposed scheme, existing transport infrastructure and other points of particular interest to the bid e.g. development sites, areas of existing employment, constraints etc.	
B8. Project theme Please select the project theme	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport investment <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration and town centre investment <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural investment
B9. Value of capital grant being requested for this project (£):	
B10. Value of match funding and sources (£):	
B11. Value for Money	

This section should set out the full range of impacts – both beneficial and adverse – of the project. Where possible, impacts should be described, quantified and also reported in monetary terms. However there may be some impacts where only a qualitative assessment is possible due to limitations in the available analysis. There should be a clear and detailed explanation of how all impacts reported have been identified, considered and analysed. When deciding what are the most significant impacts to consider, bidders should consider what impacts and outcomes the project is intended to achieve, taking into account the strategic case, but should also consider if there are other possible significant positive or negative impacts, to the economy, people, or environment

B12. It will be generally expected that an overall Benefit Cost Ratio and Value for Money Assessment will be reported in applications. If this is not possible, then the application should include a clear explanation of why not.

B13. Where available, please provide the BCR for this project	
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B14. Does your proposal deliver strong non-monetised benefits? Please set out what these are and evidence them.	
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B15. Deliverability
 Deliverability is one of the key criteria for this Fund and as such any bid should set out any necessary statutory procedures that are needed before it can be constructed.

B16. The Bid – demonstrating investment or ability to begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22

As stated in the prospectus UKG seeks for the first round of the funding that priority will be given to bids that can demonstrate investment and ability to deliver on the ground in 2021-22

B17. Does this project includes plans for some LUF expenditure in 2021-22?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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B18. Could this project be delivered as a standalone project or do it require to be part of the overall bid?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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B19. Please provide evidence	
B20. Can you demonstrate ability to deliver on the ground in 2021-22.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
B21. Please provide evidence	
Statutory Powers and Consents	
B22. Please list separately each power / consents etc obtained, details of date acquired, challenge period (if applicable) and date of expiry of powers and conditions attached to them. Any key dates should be referenced in your project plan.	
B23. Please list separately any <u>outstanding</u> statutory powers / consents etc, including the timetable for obtaining them.	

Annex C – Project Three- description and funding profile (only required for package bid)

Project 3	
C1. Project Name	
C2. Strategic Linkage to bid:	
Please enter a brief explanation of how this project links strategically to the overall bid. (in no more than 100 words)	
C4. OS Grid Reference	
C5. Postcode	
C6. For Counties, Greater London Authority and Combined Authorities/Mayoral Combined Authorities, please provide details of the district council or unitary authority where the bid is located (or predominantly located)	
C7. Please append a map showing the location (and where applicable the route) of the proposed scheme, existing transport infrastructure and other points of particular interest to the bid e.g. development sites, areas of existing employment, constraints etc.	
C8. Project theme Please select the project theme	<input type="checkbox"/> Transport investment <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration and town centre investment <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural investment
C9. Value of capital grant being requested for this project (£):	
C10. Value of match funding and sources (£):	
C11. Value for Money	
This section should set out the full range of impacts – both beneficial and adverse – of the project. Where possible, impacts should be described, quantified and also reported in monetary terms. However there may be some impacts where only a qualitative assessment is possible due to limitations in the available analysis.	

<p>There should be a clear and detailed explanation of how all impacts reported have been identified, considered and analysed. When deciding what are the most significant impacts to consider, bidders should consider what impacts and outcomes the project is intended to achieve, taking into account the strategic case, but should also consider if there are other possible significant positive or negative impacts, to the economy, people, or environment</p>	
<p>C12. It will be generally expected that an overall Benefit Cost Ratio and Value for Money Assessment will be reported in applications. If this is not possible, then the application should include a clear explanation of why not.</p>	
<p>C13. Where available, please provide the BCR for this project</p>	
<p>C14. Does your proposal deliver strong non-monetised benefits? Please set out what these are and evidence them.</p>	
<p>C15. Deliverability Deliverability is one of the key criteria for this Fund and as such any bid should set out any necessary statutory procedures that are needed before it can be constructed.</p>	
<p>C16. The Bid – demonstrating investment or ability to begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22</p> <p>As stated in the prospectus UKG seeks for the first round of the funding that priority will be given to bids that can demonstrate investment and ability to deliver on the ground in 2021-22</p>	
<p>C17. Does this project includes plans for some LUF expenditure in 2021-22?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>C18. Could this project be delivered as a standalone project or do it require to be part of the overall bid?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>C19. Please provide evidence</p>	
<p>C20. Can you demonstrate ability to deliver on the ground in 2021-22.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>

	<input type="checkbox"/> No
C21. Please provide evidence	
Statutory Powers and Consents	
C22. Please list separately each power / consents etc obtained, details of date acquired, challenge period (if applicable) and date of expiry of powers and conditions attached to them. Any key dates should be referenced in your project plan.	
C23. Please list separately any <u>outstanding</u> statutory powers / consents etc, including the timetable for obtaining them.	

ANNEX D - Check List Great Britain Local Authorities

Questions	Y/N	Comments
4.1a Member of Parliament support		
MPs have the option of providing formal written support for one bid which they see as a priority. Have you appended a letter from the MP to support this case?		
Part 4.2 Stakeholder Engagement and Support		
Where the bidding local authority does not have responsibility for the delivery of projects, have you appended a letter from the responsible authority or body confirming their support?		
Part 4.3 The Case for Investment		
For Transport Bids: Have you provided an Option Assessment Report (OAR)		
Part 6.1 Financial		
Have you appended copies of confirmed match funding?		
The UKG may accept the provision of land from third parties as part of the local contribution towards scheme costs. Please provide evidence in the form of a letter from an independent valuer to verify the true market value of the land. Have you appended a letter to support this case?		
Part 6.3 Management		
Has a delivery plan been appended to your bid?		
Has a letter relating to land acquisition been appended?		
Have you attached a copy of your Risk Register?		
Annex A-C - Project description Summary (only required for package bid)		
Have you appended a map showing the location (and where applicable the route) of the proposed scheme, existing transport infrastructure and other points of particular interest to the bid e.g. development sites, areas of existing employment, constraints etc.		

Annex E Checklist for Northern Ireland Bidding Entities

Questions	Y/N	Comments
Part 1 Gateway Criteria		
You have attached two years of audited accounts	Y	See attached Appendix H
You have provided evidence of the delivery team having experience of delivering two capital projects of similar size and in the last five years	Y	Outlined in application
Part 4.2 Stakeholder Engagement and Support		
For transport bids, have you appended a letter of support from the relevant district council	x	n/a
Part 6.1 Financial		
Have you appended copies of confirmed match funding	X	N/a
The UKG may accept the provision of land from third parties as part of the local contribution towards scheme costs. Please provide evidence in the form of a letter from an independent valuer to verify the true market value of the land.	x	N/a
Part 6.3 Management		
Has a delivery plan been appended to your bid?	Y	See attached Appendix C Project Execution Plan
Has a letter relating to land acquisition been appended?	x	N/a
Have you attached a copy of your Risk Register?	Y	See attached - Appendix D
Annex A-C - Project description Summary (only required for package bid)		
Have you appended a map showing the location (and where applicable the route) of the proposed scheme, existing transport infrastructure and other points of particular interest to the bid e.g. development sites, areas of existing employment, constraints etc.	Y	See attached Map in 3b above