

News story: Eleven bids for £15m Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund

Eleven towns and cities from across Northern England have bid for a share of a new £15 million fund to help build a lasting regional legacy from the Great Exhibition of the North.

The Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund will make grants of up to £4 million available to support major culture and tech capital projects.

The bids include the redevelopment of a former cinema into a live music venue, building four giant brick towers and creating the world's biggest digital artwork.

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Karen Bradley said:

"These hugely exciting bids demonstrate the scale of cultural ambition across the region, and reflect the great diversity of Northern towns and cities. This £15 million fund will mean that as many people as possible benefit from the Great Exhibition of the North and it is fantastic that so many communities have recognised the transformative potential of culture, design and innovation."

The first round of bids have been coordinated by Local Enterprise Partnerships in Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Humber, Lancashire, Leeds City Region, Liverpool City Region, North East, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley, York and North Yorkshire and East Riding.

The bids are:

- Cheshire and Warrington: A bid to create a world class cultural centre for children, young people and their families in Ellesmere Port, home of the critically acclaimed Action Transport Theatre.
- Cumbria: A bid to recognise and celebrate the contribution the World Heritage Lake District makes to the North of England through capital investment in Windermere Jetty, Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Museum, and Abbot Hall Art Gallery and Museum.
- Greater Manchester: A bid to create a landmark young people's creative venue in Rochdale, providing performing and digital arts participation, performance, production and training.
- Humber: A bid to create the world's biggest digital artwork, using the Humber Bridge as a canvas on which to install over 70,000 individually controllable LED lights.

- Lancashire: A bid to create The Amuseum – Britain’s first museum telling the story of British popular entertainment and Blackpool’s role in one of UK’s greatest creative industries.
- Leeds City Region: A bid to transform the former Bradford Odeon cinema into a 4,000 capacity live music, entertainment and events venue.
- Liverpool City Region: A bid to build on the success of Eureka! The National Children’s Museum in Halifax by creating Eureka! Merseyside, a new cultural attraction on the Wirral waterfront to inspire young people to explore science, technology, engineering, arts and maths.
- North East: A bid to establish a new cultural attraction in Sunderland – ‘National Centre for Imagination’ – focusing on young people’s creativity and imagination, including an institute of performing arts.
- Sheffield City Region: A bid for a major public art project in Sheffield, entitled Onwards and Upwards, that will comprise of a mile-long trail of four sculptural red chimneys to replace the demolished Tinsley cooling towers.
- Tees Valley: A bid to develop a major railway heritage visitor attraction in Tees Valley as part of a wider programme to create a ‘Railway Heritage Quarter’ and protect and conserve the Stockton & Darlington Railway.
- York and North Yorkshire and East Riding: A bid for a project, entitled Constellations: Illuminating Yorkshire’s Coast, to create landmark light installations in six key locations on the North Yorkshire coast.

The fund will boost the Northern Powerhouse and build on the impact of next year’s Great Exhibition of the North. Held in Newcastle and Gateshead next summer, the free family-friendly exhibition will showcase the best of Northern art, design and innovation and is set to be the biggest event in 2018.

The immersive exhibition – supported by £5 million of government funding – will engage communities and businesses from across the region, and promote the bustling and thriving area to the world.

Successful bids to the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund will encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration in the North of England and benefit areas that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment. The successful projects will be announced in March 2018.

Press release: Sellafield Emergency Exercise – Wednesday 6 December 2017

The exercise will take place after 7:30pm and will involve activities that may be visible and audible to neighbouring communities.

The site siren may be sounded and the public and agency alert cascade system may be activated. This means that local residents who have registered to receive automated SMS text, email and telephone warnings from us, may be contacted.

Exercise umpires and safety marshalls wearing high visibility clothing might be visible to people off site.

The exercise scenario will require the use of blank firearms and low level pyrotechnics which might be audible to neighbouring communities.

At no time will live ammunition be carried by those involved in the exercise.

The exercise scenario may also include the use of simulated casualties and injuries, although this is unlikely to be visible outside of the site boundary.

Emergency exercises are held regularly at all nuclear licensed sites to test their readiness in the event of an emergency.

If you would like any further information please contact us:

Public/stakeholder queries – 07736640682 / 01946 823362

Media queries – 07590 493749 / 019467 86227

Press release: Free flood warning service for Silsden residents

The Environment Agency has been updating its flood warning systems across West Yorkshire, using new data to provide more accurate alerts to help communities to be better prepared for flooding.

Due to these changes, the Environment Agency is encouraging Silsden residents to check if they are at risk of flooding and to sign up to receive these early flood alert and warning messages so they can be aware of when flooding

is possible.

Members of the Environment Agency's flood resilience team will be at Silsden Town Hall on Wednesday 6th December between 4-7pm, to give residents an opportunity to come and have their say on the new flood warning area, register for the free service and learn how to be prepared for flooding.

Heather Cottrill, from the Environment Agency's Flood Resilience team said:

Silsden Beck can rise and flow very quickly after heavy rain, but this new warning aims to alert the community in a timely manner, giving them more time to prepare, and to be aware of flooding so that they do not put themselves at danger.

Flood warnings give people valuable time to prepare for flooding – time that allows them to move themselves, their families and precious items to safety. Flood warnings save lives and enable the emergency services to prepare and help communities.

5.2 million homes and businesses in England are at risk of flooding.

Residents can find out if they are eligible to receive free flood warnings, and also register, by calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188, or by visiting <https://floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk/>. This website also includes information on how you can prepare for a flood and keep yourself safe.

Press release: UKHO Apprentice wins Bridgwater and Taunton College Apprenticeship Award

Sophie Hodson has won the 'Apprentice Champion' award at Bridgwater and Taunton College's Celebration of Apprenticeships Awards, which was held on 29 November at the college's McMillan Theatre.

UKHO partners with the college to deliver their apprenticeships and was the main sponsor of the event, which saw 21 of the college's 2500 apprentices making it to the final.

Sophie (Finance Assistant and Apprentice) won the 'Apprentice Champion' award, and was also a finalist in the 'Apprentice of the Year' category.

Catherine Porter, Agency & Cost Financial Controller at the UKHO and Sophie's line manager, said:

“Sophie has impressed us all since the day that she joined us. She had never used our financial system before but picked this up very quickly which is key in our roles. Working with her is a delight as she has got a lovely personality and is always proactive. She is forming good relationships around the business and the internal stakeholders that she interacts with are always extremely positive about her. This area is new to her but her commitment to the job and team is commendable.”

Amy Carrillo, Head of Human Resources at the UKHO, was a guest speaker at the awards. Speaking about the importance of apprenticeships to the UKHO, Amy said:

“We have found that apprenticeships have helped us address skill shortages, particularly in the digital field where there is a nationwide skill shortage. We have 20 digital apprenticeships covering cyber security, IT professions, software testing and data analysis. These apprentices are helping us to build a more sustainable future for our digital transition.

We are harnessing new talent and bringing in fresh ideas. Not only that, we are also using apprenticeships to re-train or upskill existing team members.

We have three Data Analyst apprentices that were already part of our production team and have 11 Management apprentices from our teams.

In addition, the UKHO are offering 12 professional apprenticeships across the organisation in finance, HR, procurement, marketing, customer services and business administration up to level 5.”

[News story: New charging systems for electric vehicles: apply for contracts](#)

Organisations can apply for a share of £80,000 to examine how low-carbon and smart electric vehicle charging infrastructure could be introduced in Edinburgh.

[The City of Edinburgh Council](#) has up to £80,000 to invest in studies that look at how smart energy systems and renewable energy could be integrated into a future mass-market electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

A further £200,000 could be available to prototype the best ideas in a second phase of the competition.

Funding for this competition is under the SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) programme.

Creating an integrated charging infrastructure

[Scottish Government](#) has set out new targets for carbon reduction and electric vehicles. This includes phasing out the need for diesel and petrol vehicles by 2032 and significantly expanding the country's charging network.

In this competition, Edinburgh is seeking projects that combine on-site generation of renewable energy, battery storage and smart meters with innovative software systems to control everything.

Its aim is to have financially self-sustaining, closed-loop vehicle charging systems, with smart grid and vehicle-to-grid capabilities.

Competition information

- the competition opens on 4 December 2017, and the deadline for registration is midday on 7 February 2018
- SBRI is open to any organisation that can demonstrate a route to market for its idea
- we expect phase 1 contracts to be worth up to £20,000 and to last up to 6 months
- phase 2 contracts could be worth up to £100,000
- successful projects will attract 100% funded development contracts