

# Expression of Interest: Forest of Dean Capital Project Portfolio

Announced in the UK Budget in March 2021, the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) will invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK. Nationally, the £4.8 billion fund will support regeneration and town centre investment, local transport projects, and cultural and heritage assets. Projects should be aligned to and support the council's Net Zero goals demonstrating low or zero carbon best practice.

Forest of Dean District Council can submit a single bid, or a multiple project bid containing a maximum of 3 interrelated projects seeking up to £20 million capital grant support. If successful, the Council will not be able to submit another bid until 2024/25.

The Council is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI) for project applicants to flag capital projects that meet the investment themes outlined in the LUF prospectus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-prospectus>

Forest based projects will also need to demonstrate that they meet a local need, provide value for money, are financially sustainable over the longer term, are deliverable and provide a good strategic fit with the Forest of Dean District Council's corporate plan, local plan and economic recovery plan.

Inclusion in this project portfolio is an indication that the idea has potential, but does not automatically secure support or funding. Creating this pipeline will help us identify and direct projects to in any future 'build it back better' fund opportunities which may arise.

Please note, by completing this EOI you are confirming that:

- you certify, to the best of your knowledge the information submitted on this form is true and correct.
- you have the appropriate level of responsibility to submit this EOI on behalf of your organisation.
- you are aware that acceptance of a project into the Forest of Dean Levelling Up Project Pipeline does not automatically result in support or funding through the organisation and partnering organisations.

Please note due to the limited time available to submit to the Levelling Up Fund, we are not able to review expressions of interest with individuals or groups during the call period, however you may be approached for further information at a later date.

\*Required

1. Email address \*

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2. Project Name (Be specific not general, to avoid confusion with other similar projects or locations) \*

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3. Applicant Organisation \*

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4. Applicant Address \*

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5. Primary Contact (name & job title) \*

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6. Contact Telephone Number \*

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## About The Project

### Project Status

In this section you will be required to give details of the current status of your project and milestones.

7. Project Status (select from one of the following) \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Concept Stage (very early stages, requires considerable development before it could be considered for funding)
- Outline Stage (early stages, some detail clear but longer term aspiration which will need further development)
- Developed Stage (clear project plan, deliverable, but seeking funds)
- Mobilising Stage (project moving close to delivery, which still has some challenges to overcome)

8. Please confirm which financial year your project would be ready to commence physical works: \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- 2021/22 (Requirement for Levelling Up Funding)
- 2022/23
- 2023/24
- 2024/25

9. Please provide a brief explanation of the project status (Max 700 characters) \*

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10. Please indicate the key milestones which your project has already achieved.  
(please confirm all applicable) \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- Applicant identified
- Design Detail Stage
- Full Business case available
- Planning Status
- Land Assembly (potential requirement for CPO)
- Confirmed Funding Sources

Other:  \_\_\_\_\_

11. Please provide a brief explanation of the project milestones (Max 700 characters) \*

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### **Project Objectives**

This section looks at the key objectives set out by the Government and how your project relates to both those and the key priorities of the Forest of Dean District Council.

12. Investment theme: Tick the primary theme that best fits your project. \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- Local Transport (Includes Active Travel)
- Regeneration and Town Centre Investment
- Culture and Heritage

13. Please highlight which of the Government Priorities your project best relates to: \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- Improved Residential Vacancy Rates
- Improve Commercial Vacancy Rates
- Development of a Brownfield Site
- Increase Jobs & Skills
- Increase GVA per hour worked
- Reduce the need to travel outside of the district for employment
- Increase opportunities for active travel (walking/cycling)

14. Please highlight which of the FoDDC Priorities (<https://fdean.gov.uk/media/hgwfy pbv/corporate-plan-2019-to-2023.pdf>) your project best related to: \*

*Tick all that apply.*

- COMMUNITY: Improve community, wellbeing, supporting and celebrating our distinctiveness
- ECONOMY: Develop a vibrant economy that is resilient and future proof
- HOUSING: Provide a range of affordable housing to meet the needs of the District
- ENVIRONMENT: Protect and enhance the local environment and address the climate emergency

15. How will the project support the Forest of Dean District becoming Net Zero by 2030 (Max 1000 characters) \*

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16. Strategic Fit (Max 1000 characters) (Give the local, regional or national context for your project. Explain how it clearly aligns to the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire and any relevant national strategies/delivery plans eg. Economic/Leisure/Culture/Transport) \*

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### Project Summary

In this section you will be required to give more details on your projects outcomes and community benefits.

17. Project Summary (Max 1250 characters) (Describe your project idea clearly and succinctly, including what the investment would buy, and why it would lead to sustainable economic growth for Forest of Dean. Include the potential timeframe, and any significant drivers or constraints related to the scheduling of the investment. Include details of the organisation(s) that would be involved in its delivery, and why public funds are needed). \*

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18. Summary of benefits/outcomes that will be delivered (Max 1250 characters) (Expanding on your summary, provide information on the tangible benefits or outcomes that would be delivered, leading to the sustainable growth of the Forest of Dean economy. These could address challenges or capitalise on opportunities, including those associated with improving productivity, supporting the transition to a green economy or improving accessibility to jobs skills and services. List the expected benefits, estimated quantities and indicate the timescales). \*

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19. Evidence of need or demand (Max 1250 characters) (give details of the evidence you can reference that supports your case that there is a need or demand for this project) \*

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20. Key challenges associated with Project (give brief indication of the main challenges or risks associated with the successful delivery of this project) \*

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## Funding

In this section you will be required to give details on the capital funding for your project.

21. What is the cost estimate for the project? \*

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22. Summary of the Capital Investment(s) proposed and sources of funding(Max 1250 characters): (Estimated total capital cost of the project, and (if available) list the main elements of the budget. Provide details of any potential or secured source(s) of funding and the likely shortfall.) \*

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23. Please provide details of any match funding already secured by the applicant or any partner organisation. \*

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