

Construction Skills Through Regeneration Programme Funding

What is the funding for?

The Promotion of Construction Skills Through Regeneration (CStR) is part of the [Governments Town Fund Programme](#), which will fund projects in Bloxwich between 2024 and 2026. The CStR grants programme aims to deliver housing units, whilst driving the sustainable economic regeneration of Bloxwich for long-term economic and productivity growth. The purpose of the CStR programme is to promote long term local employment and construction skills training for local Walsall Borough residents and deliver neighbourhood renewal, through delivery of new homes and improvements to existing stock.

Through this programme strong partnerships with new and existing skills centres/social enterprise projects will be built, including the new construction skills centre at Walsall College. The programme will help improve the quality of neighbourhood lives, reduced carbon emissions, enable local people to upskill and secure sustainable employment which ultimately promotes improved health and wellbeing across the communities.

The overall programme outcome targets are as follows:

- Delivery of 51 new housing units
- 205 Improved/refurbished residential units
- Delivery of 41 additional green retrofits to existing homes
- Support 75 learners and 31 apprenticeships

Who can apply?

In its second call for proposals, the grants programme will seek applications from Landowners (legal entities or individuals), Developers and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), who have land within the Bloxwich Town Deal area ([maps on the website](#)), with the potential, subject to the approval of gap funding, to deliver new housing.

This includes existing derelict sites, the re-purposing of garage sites, the expansion of existing part developed sites and adapting existing housing blocks or utilising garage sites to create new / additional homes.

Applicants into this programme are requested to set out:

- The details of any known financial barriers or viability gaps.
- Where unknown, the feasibility works, or ground assessments required (with cost estimates) to establish the scope and value of viability gaps.
- The permissions in place or required e.g. planning.
- The timeframes envisaged and the housing outputs achievable.

Applicants will also be asked to agree to further discussing how their projects contractors could maximise the benefits of using local supply chains, together with assisting Walsall College with the delivery of any appropriate work experience, training or apprenticeship opportunities etc.

[Walsall College](#) is our prime contractor for training, apprenticeships and work experience placements to maximise the job and employment opportunities for local* people.

Walsall Council would like to promote its local* suppliers, and has developed an online platform detailing local suppliers which is shared publicly on our **website** [Walsall Local Supply Chain Directory](#)

In light of this, we would like to encourage all organisations applying for funding from the Construction Skills through Regeneration programme to utilise this tool, in support of the search for supplies/services required for projects' activities.

How much can be applied for?

In its second call Walsall Council has funding of up to £2 million available to be distributed.

There is no set minimum match funding contribution. However, Walsall Council will, if required, signpost applicants to other grant funded programmes that could further provide financial assistance for projects.

If your application is successful the Towns Fund grant must be spent fully by 31 March 2026, with outputs and outcomes needing to be achieved and evidenced by December 2028 to enable the Council's CStR team to review, report and submit to Government by the end of March 2029.

How to apply?

The first stage is submission of an Expression of Interest, which will be assessed by the Council's CStR team.

If successful, applicants will be invited to submit a full application. At this stage you must be able to evidence the need for the grant (and demonstrate that there is a viability gap), confirm the outputs that will be achieved, and set out any health and wellbeing benefits resulting from the funding.

Please see Expression of Interest template on the Walsall Council's website <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/CSTR>

Applications must be submitted by the deadline agreed for the Tender round with Walsall Council.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Development site(s) **must** be within the Bloxwich Town Fund geographical boundaries, [maps on the website](#)
2. Applicants must clearly evidence that the project is unable to proceed without public sector support, evidenced through a demonstrated viability gap, supported by a development appraisal.
3. Applicants should identify the specific works that the Town Deal funding would be used for.
4. Projects must deliver new / additional housing units, this could also be change of use to residential.
5. All Town Deal funding must be spent prior to 31 March 2026.
6. Funding is conditional on the Landowners (legal entities or individuals), Developers or RSL either possessing a legal interest in the property already or have (via a legal agreement) an option to acquire an interest as part of a scheme, prior to drawing down grant. If you don't have ownership or interest in the land, you must state who has the ownership of the land you wish to develop and how the project can proceed.



7. Applicants must comply with planning policy / permissions and any other regulatory requirements (e.g. building regulations).

This is a capital grant, hence bidders are only able to include costs that are necessary in creating or enhancing an asset. No revenue or operational costs are eligible via this fund.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate that their project complies with Subsidy Control Act, with further details provided within the Expression of Interest form.

Projects will be assessed by the Council in light of their contribution to output targets set out above and value for money. Value for money will be evaluated by the Council based on a comparison of the expected outputs and associated benefits arising from the proposed project against the funding requirement.

The Full Application will also be reviewed by the Council's independent Technical Advisors; by submitting an application, the applicant will agree to provide the Technical Advisors with all information requested. Failure to do so will result in a rejection of your application. The Technical Advisors will produce a due diligence report setting out their findings to the Council in relation to their review of the Full Application.

The application and due diligence report will be reviewed as per our governance process, as summarised in the Application Guidance, once completed the final decision will be communicated to the applicant.