

Tender brief



Synthesising insights from local economic resilience projects



Deadline for response: 22 March 2019

Budget: in the region of £10,000



Synthesising insights from local economic resilience projects

Purpose of the Brief

The Friends Provident Foundation is seeking to recruit the services of a desk researcher to map key learnings from its local economic resilience projects and to synthesise these into a body of evidence and insight.

Friends Provident Foundation: Background and Context

Friends Provident Foundation is an independent charity that makes grants and uses its endowment towards a fair, resilient and sustainable economic system that serves people and planet. We connect, fund, support and invest in new thinking to shape a future economy that works for all.

Since 2004, we've pioneered the creation of fair economy for a better world. Already, we've helped improve access to financial services for people who were once excluded and supported the development of resilient economic communities across the UK. We're a catalyst for wider change, making an impact through continuous experimentation and shared learning. And we do all we can to embody the change we want to see. We invest in great social enterprises and use our money in line with our values. Tomorrow, we'll continue to fund more new thinking, connect new ideas, invest our capital in line with our aims and values and create better systems so that in the future, the economy will serve both people and planet.

Our diverse grants portfolio contains a rich seam of evidence, including both individual outputs from each grant project as well as the overall learnings that the Foundation is in a unique position to synthesise from its position as a funding organisation. We see this metalevel of learning as invaluable in enabling us to crystallise themes, content and messages, creating added value to our communications activity.

Our aims are to:

1. understand the field we are supporting and the context in which grant interventions are carried out;
2. develop a stronger focus on the lessons that result from our grant-making and ensure that these are distilled and shared openly and widely
3. communicate this learning using a variety of tools, as contextually appropriate for the topic and audience, designed in such a way to be accessible without being over-simplified.
4. consider the implications of the findings

The Building Resilient Economies Programme

The local economic resilience projects in question formed part of the Building Resilient Economies Programme which has been a key strand of the Foundation's work. The programme aimed to build a more resilient, sustainable and fairer economic system - one that distributes social and economic goods and services more fairly, and balances short-term and long-term needs more effectively. More information is on our website [here](#)

The programme is underpinned by a report from the New Economics Foundation¹ (NEF) that was commissioned by the Foundation, setting out a framework for considering local economies, suggesting key areas of intervention to build local economic resilience. To date we have not looked in detail at what we funded and learned against the original framework set out in this report, although there has been an [evaluation of the programme](#) which was published in the Autumn of 2018.

The work we wish to commission

Following a period of desk-based research by the successful applicant, the output we are seeking is a substantial written report (to a maximum of 10,000 words).

The style of the report should use plain English and be in an accessible format as it will be required to form the basis of subsequent communications materials.

The report should explore, map and synthesise the learnings from the circa 80 local economics resilience projects we have funded. It should also seek to establish the extent to which these projects map back onto the original framework as set out in the NEF report. It should include a brief overview of the policy and institutional context affecting local economies and encompass:

- what we funded in response to applications and what was commissioned;
- what learning was captured by the Foundation within its monitoring systems from the work that we funded; and
- the relationship of projects not funded or withdrawn (circa 130) in relation to the NEF agenda.

The Foundation will provide access to a range of documentation to support the research and will be available to support the successful bidder during the execution of the project.

Staff would be happy to discuss the development of proposals with potential applicants. If you wish to have an informal discussion, please contact: Danielle Walker Palmour, Director on 01904 629675 or danielle.walker@friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk

¹ <https://www.friendsprovidentfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/nef-Mapping-Economic-Resilience-1-report.pdf>

How to apply

We expect the outputs to be those specified in the body of this brief and outlined in the proposal submitted by the successful bidder. Submissions are welcomed in the region of **£10,000**.

Proposals should include:

- **Full contact details of the bidder:** This should include email addresses, telephone numbers and postal address.
- **Experience of similar projects or experience in the field:** Outline your understanding of the products required, your experience in related areas and any other relevant background information such as previous experience of working with a range of commentators.
- **Design, methods and approach:** Outline in some detail the approach you propose to take. Also explain why you believe that your proposed approach is likely to be the most effective one and yield the best results.
- **Timetable:** Please provide a schedule setting out how you will meet the timetable.
- **Staffing:** Give brief information about the main staff to be involved in the project – indicating current role/post, previous experience and examples.
- **Costs:** Estimates of the costs for the work as outlined, including staffing, expenses and VAT if applicable.

Proposals should not exceed six pages, using text no smaller than point size 11 in Arial font (or equivalent).

The Foundation will evaluate the proposals received in terms of:

- knowledge and/or experience of the team
- existing expertise in the subject
- demonstrated understanding of the Foundation's Resilient Economies programme
- feasibility of the proposed approach
- ability of the team to deliver
- value for money

Living Wage: Please note that we are a Living Wage employer and expect all staff associated with this tender to also be paid at or above the Living Wage.

Timetable

Please send your completed tender submissions by **12 noon on Friday 22 March** to:

Caroline Watson, Office Manager, Friends Provident Foundation, Blake House, 18 Blake Street, York YO1 5QG. Telephone: 01904 629675

Email: caroline.watson@friendsprovidentfoundation.org.uk

Applicants informed of the decision	1 April 2019
Successful bidder commences work	8 April 2019
Final report to be completed	20 May 2019