

Invitation to tender (ITT)
Learning partner for the Future Communities Fund Round 1
Questions and answers

Potential conflict of interest

If the Co-op Foundation already funds a supplier through a different funding stream, would the supplier be eligible to apply for the role of the Learning Partner?

As long as the supplier is not funded by the [Future Communities Fund](#), they are eligible to apply for the contract of the Learning Partner. If a supplier is receiving a live grant from the Foundation, they must include a section on risks in their proposal and explain how they would ensure that the delivery of the contract will not be impacted if, for example, issues arise from the separate grant they have been awarded.

Involving young people in the Learning partner role

Does the Co-op Foundation have any aspirations for direct engagement with young people through the learning partner role, please?

The Co-op Foundation is committed through our strategy to youth engagement in all aspects of our funding. For example, our strategic priorities have been set by young people who we engaged in our visioning study. The Future Communities Fund round one funding was awarded through participatory grant making with decisions made by our [Future Communities Collective](#) - a group of seven young people from diverse backgrounds. The Future Communities Fund round one has a strong focus on youth activism.

We expect the Learning partner to have expertise in the areas of youth activism and youth leadership and excellent facilitation skills. It is up to the suppliers to suggest the best approach in their role for fulfilling the aim and objectives and answering the learning questions we set out in the ITT. The Learning partner will work closely with our funded organisations to co-design the approach to the learning and evaluation. At this stage, to answer some of the learning questions, it will be important to engage young people directly. We would also welcome suppliers who will include young researchers from diverse backgrounds in their bidding teams.

Theory of change

What was the process the Foundation went through to develop the theory of change model you provided in the appendix to the ITT?

The theory of change of the Future Communities Fund was created in different stages. In the initial stages of developing the fund, we ran a workshop with the Co-op Foundation's Funding & Partnerships team and two other funders that support youth social action. During that workshop, we discussed the context we are operating, what 'good support' to youth activism looks like and the impact and outcomes of the fund. A second workshop was held later on during the assessments of the submitted applications, and we involved the [Future Communities Collective](#) in identifying further outcomes and long-lasting impacts young people wanted to achieve with the Fund. We consider our theory of

change a living document that needs to be refined with input from our funded partners and enriched with a discussion on activities, assumptions and the broader context in which this fund is being delivered. Concurrently we also developed our [organisational theory of change](#) that, to some extent, overlaps and links to the Future Communities Fund Round one theory of change.

Quantitative targets

Has the Co-op Foundation set itself any quantitative targets in relation to this?

The Co-op Foundation hasn't identified quantitative targets at this point. True to our partnership approach, we expect these to be set in collaboration with our funded partners and in a way that is proportionate to the level of the funding, and that is also benefiting the organisations we fund.