



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

***** Updated on 26th March due to Coronavirus *****

Innovative Built Solutions for Churches: Guidance Notes

In partnership with:





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Innovative Built Solutions for Churches: Guidance Notes for Applicants

Introduction

The 'Innovative Built Solutions for Churches' programme aims to establish a small number of exemplar housing schemes using church land or buildings.

Working with specialist housing consultants, LivShare Consulting, we will provide early stage support to a range of small-scale, innovative schemes involving the use of church land or property to meet a local housing need.

We will offer free expert advice to five church-led projects - up to five days each - and harness the support of potential funders and partner organisations.

This is an initiative of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Housing, Church and Community, helping local churches respond effectively and creatively to the housing crisis.

What projects are eligible?

We are looking for churches of all denominations that are actively exploring the possibility of a small-scale housing scheme using church-owned land or property to meet a local housing need.

We are interested in projects that:

- are at a relatively early stage in their development, who would benefit from technical support to help them secure the funding and advice to move to the next stage;
- are seeking to deliver a range of positive outcomes, such as environmental benefits and providing additional income or facilities for the church, as well as meeting housing need.
- are open to partnering with an infrastructure organisation, housing provider or charity;
- are willing to share their learning and experience with other churches;
- can demonstrate they have the support of the local church and of the relevant regional



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church body (for projects that require their consent);

- are based in England.

We are particularly interested in projects that help to build community and empower people, whilst also meeting an identified housing need.

The types of project that will be considered could include:

- Micro-housing
- Community Land Trusts
- Use of air rights over church car parks
- Guardian services
- Conversion of church buildings
- Small-scale affordable housing development

The list above is not exhaustive. See our [scoping report](#) for more information about different types of housing schemes.

Questions to ask yourself:

- *What housing issues is my community facing?*
- *How would this project support positive change for people directly affected by these issues, and for the church and wider community?*

How to apply

Please complete the [expression of interest form](#), and we will get in touch to discuss your proposal. If you meet the eligibility criteria, then you will be invited to complete a short application form by **Friday 30th April 2020**. **Please note that this deadline has been extended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will keep this under review as the situation develops.**

A small panel, consisting of representatives from the Church of England and LivShare Consulting, will decide which projects will be selected to be part of this programme. Successful projects will be notified by Friday 15th May 2020.