

UK Futures Programme Assessment Criteria

Summary of Assessment Criteria

All applications will be assessed against five core criteria and the sub criteria within:

Core Criteria	Sub Criteria
Potential for Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates that the solution will seek to address the problem (including a clear logic chain)
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The extent to which the project is innovative
Employer leadership and engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates strong employer leadership through the governance arrangements and project leadership• Demonstrates a clear approach to ensuring that a range of employers will be engaged in the project
Public and private contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates an appropriate balance of private cash and in kind contributions to the project which is quantifiable and well evidenced• Demonstrates the added value that the public contribution will bring to the project
Testing and shared learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates a clear approach to testing and shared learning

Detailed assessment criteria

1 Potential for impact – please refer to the guidance document: Potential for impact	
1.1 Demonstrates that the solution will seek to address the problem (including a clear logic chain) - please refer to the response to Question 4a and Question 4b - the logic chain annex	
Not satisfactory 0-3	Satisfactory 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not provide a logic chain or does not provide one that sufficiently illustrates the proposed potential for impact from problem to solution to results which address the original problem covering the six elements of problem, inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impact • Does not demonstrate a sufficient understanding of the PROBLEM the project is aiming to tackle • No consideration of why the proposed solution will fit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a logic chain which clearly illustrates the proposed potential for impact from problem to solution to results which address the original problem covering the six elements of problem, understanding, inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impact • Provides a clear narrative which demonstrates initial planning and consideration of the issues involved in delivering and testing the potential for impact
2 Innovation – please refer to the guidance document: Innovation	
2.1 The extent to which the project is innovative – please refer to the response to Question 5	
Not satisfactory 0-3	Satisfactory 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not identify the aspects of the project which are new and innovative • Does not identify the type of innovation being proposed • Little or no consideration of why existing options are not appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly identifies the aspects of the project which are new and innovative • Clearly identifies the type of innovation being proposed – transformative, context-specific or adaptive • Outlines why existing options are not appropriate and how the innovation remedies this • Consideration has been given to if and how the project builds upon existing learning and good practice

3 Employer Leadership and engagement – please refer to the guidance document: Engaging a wide range of employers	
3.1 Demonstrates strong employer leadership through the governance arrangements and project leadership – please refer to the response to Question 6a plus the optional organogram if provided	
Not satisfactory 0-3	Satisfactory 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governance arrangements for the project appear to be weak or not thought through • Little or no explanation of how the governance arrangements will successfully govern the project • The project leadership for the project appears to be weak or not thought through • Little or no explanation of how the project leadership will successfully govern the project • Little or no employer involvement outlined in the governance arrangements and/or the project leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are strong governance arrangements for the project • Provides a clear explanation of how these will successfully govern the project including the track record of existing arrangements • There is strong employer leadership for the project • Employers will be strongly involved in both the governance arrangements and project leadership
3.2 Demonstrates a clear approach to ensuring that a range of employers will be engaged in the project – please refer to the response to Question 6c – the table of key employers and partners and the response to Question 6d	
Not satisfactory 01-3	Satisfactory 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak or no overall approach for engaging a wide range of employers • Little or no engagement of employers in the project; no plans beyond a “warm” audience • Key employers and partners do not appear to be committed to or in dialogue to be committed to the project • Does not identify whether this is an existing collaboration of employers or a new collaboration • Little or no planned engagement of employers engaged in shaping and testing throughout the project • No consideration has been given to the resources required to engage a wide range of employers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly outlines the overall approach for engaging a wide range of employers and when this will happen • An appropriate range of employers will be engaged in the project; this needs to be broader than a “warm” audience • Key employers and partners are committed to or in dialogue to be committed to the project • Clearly identifies whether this is an existing collaboration of employers or a new collaboration • Employers will be engaged in shaping and testing throughout the project • Consideration has been given to the resources required to engage a wide range of employers and maintain this engagement.

4 Public and private contribution – please refer to the guidance document: Public and private contributions	
4.1 Demonstrates an appropriate balance of private cash and in kind contributions to the project which is quantifiable and well evidenced – please refer to the response to Question 7a – Finance spreadsheet annex	
Not satisfactory 0-3	Satisfactory 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The balance of private cash and in kind contributions does not appear to be appropriate to the project • The contributions do not appear to be realistic or be certain in terms of commitment • The contributions are not quantifiable or well • The contributions do not occur within the timespan of the project we will be funding • The type of cash is not acceptable • The nature and purpose of the private contribution is not clearly defined • The in kind contribution is not of sufficient quality • There appear to be serious risks from a financial perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly demonstrates that there is a balance of private cash and in kind contributions appropriate to the project • The contributions appear to be realistic and have a certainty to the commitment • The contributions are quantifiable and well evidenced and occur within the timespan of the project we will be funding • The contributions have real substance, based on clear assumptions, and in some cases are already market tested if this is relevant • The type of cash is acceptable • The nature and purpose of the private contribution is clearly defined • The in kind contribution is of quality
4.2 Demonstrates the added value that the public contribution will bring to the project – please refer to the response to Question 7b	
No answer or an irrelevant answer 0	Satisfactory 4-6
Not satisfactory 1-3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little or no consideration of the added value that the public contribution will provide to the project • The public contribution appears not to be adding value to the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the public contribution is clearly articulated • The public contribution will add value to the project

5 Testing and shared learning – please refer to the guidance document: Testing and shared learning	
5.1 Demonstrates a clear approach to testing and shared learning and a willingness to share ideas and learn from others – please refer to the response to Question 8	
Not satisfactory 0-3	Satisfactory 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not show an openness willingness to share ideas, discuss challenges and learn from others • Little or no willingness to learn more about testing and implement the learning in the way they progress their project • The overall approach to testing and sharing learning is not clear • Little of no idea of what the applicant wants to test through the project • No or little consideration of the methods the applicants plan to use • No or little initial thinking has taken place about how to build in the flexibility so the project can be refined as a result of the learning process • Does not confirm that the applicant has allowed resources to fully test each stage of the project in the ways outlined in the guidance • Does not outline what the applicants expect to learn from the project and how 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows an openness willingness to share ideas, discuss challenges and learn from others (e.g. participation in the Innovation Labs), and flexibility / readiness to change /evolve • Shows a willingness to learn more about testing and implement the learning in the way they progress their project • Clear overall approach to testing and sharing learning including how employers will be engaged • Provides a clear idea of what the applicant wants to test through the project • Consideration given to the methods the applicant plans to use • Initial thinking has taken place about processes to review the learning; and, how that will guide delivery • Provides confirmation that the applicant has allowed resources to fully test each stage of the project in the ways outlined in the guidance e.g. to attend the learning labs, to plan, deliver and review testing and learning, evaluation report • Outlines the expected benefits and opportunities from testing and learning as they go, e.g. managing risks