
Report of the Chief Officer Communities

Report to the Director of Communities and Environment

Date: 27th July 2017

Subject: Grant evaluation and contract award for the Leeds Migrant Project 'Plus' DN265131

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The grant funding application process for the Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus' commenced in May 2017.
2. Leeds City Council were successful in securing grant funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government Controlling Migration Fund to develop and deliver a 'Standards and Expectations Project. (Now called The Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus'). The funding has been secured to develop additional satellite models in Leeds (based on the EUROCITIES award winning Migrant Access Project) to address issues and concerns in relation to:
 - Standards and expectations that we expect of all residents in Leeds. This will assist in minimising low level tensions in communities, and aiding integration;
 - Ensuring migrants access services in the most efficient and cost saving way with a view to reducing pressures on services, thereby reducing concerns from settled communities with a specific focus on GP surgeries and private sector housing landlords.
3. The council will receive grant funding for 2017/18 and 2018/19. This is fixed term non-recurring funding.
4. Four grant applications were received and were considered by an assessment panel.

Recommendations

1. The Director of Communities & Environment is requested to note the evaluation process and approve awarding the contract for the Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus' to Touchstone.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report outlines the grant funding application process undertaken for the delivery of the Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus' and the outcome of the grant evaluation process.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council were successful in securing grant funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government Controlling Migration Fund to develop and deliver a 'Standards and Expectations Project. (Now called The Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus'.) The funding has been secured to develop additional satellite models in Leeds (based on the EUROCITIES award winning Migrant Access Project) to address issues and concerns in relation to:
- Standards and expectations that we expect of all residents in Leeds. This will assist in minimising low level tensions in communities, and aiding integration;
 - Ensuring migrants access services in the most efficient and cost saving way with a view to reducing pressures on services, thereby reducing concerns from settled communities with a specific focus on GP surgeries and private sector housing landlords.
- 2.2 The council will receive grant funding of £525,000 for 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 2.3 A grant funding application process was started in May 2017.
- 2.4 The grant funding opportunity was for £420,000 for the delivery of the Leeds Migrants Access Project 'Plus'. The project will develop and deliver Migrant Access satellite provision in South and West Leeds and three additional satellites over the lifetime of the grant. This will complement the existing MAP provision which currently takes place in East Leeds. The remainder of the grant will be used for council project management costs and an evaluation report which will be carried out by one of the Leeds Universities.

3. Summary of Main issues

- 3.1 The delivery of this project is an important part of the Migration work the council are undertaking and more importantly will deliver the agreed outcomes and outputs for us for DCLG who are funding this work. We needed to identify the right provider who understands the client group. Also given the niche nature of the work, the ambitions of the strategic, coordinated and inclusive approach to migration in the city and the limited provider market, a decision was made to undertake a grant funding process.
- 3.2 The grant funding process was launched on 19th May 2017 with a closing date of 9th June 2017. 17 expressions of interest were received and four bids were submitted.
- 3.3 An assessment panel met on 21st June to evaluate the bids that were submitted. The assessment panel included the Head of Equality (Commissioner for this Project) who chaired the panel, an Area Leader from the Communities Team, the Head of Public Health, the Service Manager Private Sector Housing, a MAP Board member and the Commissioning Officer (Migrant Access).

- 3.4 The assessment panel undertook a quality evaluation of the submitted bids. The price submissions were all within the allocated budget.
- 3.5 Due diligence checks of the grant applications have been undertaken by PPPU.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Over the last 6 months work has taken place in Leeds to establish the evidence base for understanding need and issues which come with increased migration. This work, combined with high level discussions at Executive Board, Scrutiny Board (Citizens and Communities) and the Leeds Strategic Migration Board have given the strategic direction and focus for this bid.
- 4.1.2 The development of this funding bid included consultation with a number of third sector organisations, which assisted in the identification of specific issues and proposed resolutions on how this funding could be used to assist the migrant community while mitigating their impact on the resident communities. This included Leeds City of Sanctuary, RETAS and PAFRAS.
- 4.1.3 The funding bid was signed off by the council's section 151 Officer.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The issue of migration clearly is a significant aspect of equality and cohesion and this will be carefully considered during the roll out of the project. Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken on specific pieces of work as required.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1 The grant funding application process supports the council's values of spending money wisely and being open, honest and trusted.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The resources to fund this project will be via grant funding from DCLG. The grant application process has been designed to drive improvements in service quality and value for money. All grant applications received were within budget.
- 4.4.2 Increasing understanding of how newcomers to the City 'works' will help migrants access services in the most efficient and cost saving way with a view to reducing pressures on services.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications with this report. The report is not subject to call-in.
- 4.5.2 The acceptance of the grant funding was subject to a key decision on 27th April 2017. A direct consequence of that decision is that the awarding of the Leeds Migrant Project 'Plus' grant will be made as a significant operational decision.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The grant funding application process has been undertaken in a fair, open and transparent way.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Touchstone was found to meet the necessary criteria to deliver the Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus' and have a track record of experience and delivery of working in this area.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Communities & Environment is requested to note the evaluation process and approve awarding the contract for the Leeds Migrant Access Project 'Plus' to Touchstone. The start date of the contract will be 1st July 2017.