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**Report of the Migration Programme Manager**

**Report to the Director of Communities and Environment**

**Date: 16 April 2019**

**Subject: Controlling Migration Fund – Community Connectors Programme**

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

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**Summary of main issue**

1. In February 2019 Leeds City Council received notification from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government that they had been successful in their bid to the Controlling Migration Fund for the development of the Community Connectors Programme.
2. The Council will receive grant funding of £249,342.23 for the delivery of this programme in 2019/20 period with a completion date for delivery of the project on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**Recommendations**

The Director of Communities & Environment accepts the grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop and deliver the Community Connectors Programme.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

1.1 The report sets out the background information and proposal for Leeds City Council to accept grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Controlling Migration Fund to develop and deliver the Community Connectors Programme.

1.2 The funding will be used to:-

- Respond to the challenges within five of our priority neighbourhoods with higher levels of resident migrant communities. The project will focus on improving cohesion and community resilience through: increasing migrant community confidence in reporting of hate crime; improved housing, increasing community engagement and involvement in community activities and improved health and wellbeing of new and existing migrant communities through take up of local services.
- The five areas the project will be based in are: Beeston Hill, Clifton and Nowells, Lincoln Green, Recreations and Holdforth and Clydes. The team of Community Connectors will work closely with our existing Communities teams.
- The proposals are to:
  - Establish strong and resilient local community infrastructure for Leeds;
  - Help save costs to public services;
  - Unlock migrant capabilities;
  - Increase capacity to promote a more integrated and socially cohesive society.

## **2. Background information**

2.1 The Best Council Plan 2018 – 2021 sets out the vision for Leeds to be the best city in the UK: one that is compassionate with a strong economy, which tackles poverty and reduces the inequalities that still exist.

2.2 Leeds has a diverse and changing cultural populations, ranked in the top 5% of UK local authorities for the number of national insurance number applications (NINo) from overseas nationals (ranked 19<sup>th</sup> after London, Birmingham and Manchester). In 2011 the population was just over 750,000 people: predicted to rise by a further 15% over the next 25 years. According to the 2011 census, the number of Leeds residents born outside of the UK equated to just over 11%. Of those, more than 66% were born outside of the European Union, and just over half arrived at some point in the preceding ten years. Since 2011, the number of migrants settling in Leeds, particularly, from the European Union following the expansion of the European Economic Area (EEA) countries into Eastern Europe, has continued to rise. Leeds residents represent over 170 ethnic groups speaking over 104 languages.

2.3 Newcomers often have a limited understanding of Leeds and this puts additional pressures on services which in turn impacts on the settled communities' ability to access these. This can inhibit the formation of strong, supportive and integrated communities. The council want to address real and perceived issues in order to build resilience and cohesion.

2.4 The Community Connectors Programme aims to support new migrants connect with local services and existing community networks through building bridges to

encourage participation and independence that benefits everyone in the city.

- 2.5 The programme will provide the connection between services and communities to enable inclusivity to the core teams' community engagement work both informing and influencing local delivery.
- 2.6 This also includes building on the successful Migrant Access Programme and closer working with the Migrant Access Project 'Plus' networkers supporting local residents and services in priority neighbourhoods.

### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 The total value of the grant from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government for this programme is £249,342.23 for 2019/20.
- 3.2 Funding provided by the Controlling Migration Fund will address challenges and add value to the city's work on migration and priority neighbourhoods, as well as economic development.
- 3.3 The Community Connectors Programme will be managed by the Communities Team and delivery will take place through the creation of six new temporary posts. The proposal is to establish a team consisting of a Community Connectors Coordinator managing five Community Connector officer posts, working out in the priority neighbourhoods to improve engagement and outcomes for local residents.

### **4. Corporate considerations**

#### **4.1.1 Consultation and engagement**

Over the last year 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 (Environment and Communities) and the Leeds Strategic Migration Board have given the strategic direction and focus for this bid. The Strategic Approach to Migration was approved by Executive Board in July 2017 and scrutiny board in March 2019 endorsed the direction of travel.

- 4.1.2 The development of this funding bid considered various strands of migration work and increasing demand on engagement via the Migrant Community Networkers of the Migrant Access Programme. This identified a gap in provision at a level where Migrant Community Networkers were supporting a role outside of their remit in order to achieve outcomes for people. This project will offer opportunities to people developing their skills through volunteering and in a job ready position.
- 4.1.3 The funding bid has been 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 development of the project.

#### **4.3 Council policies and best council plan**

- 4.3.1 Leeds is a welcoming and compassionate city and the recommendations in this report support the Best Council Plan key aim of ' Building strong, cohesive communities, raising aspirations, reducing financial hardship' and underpin the Equality Improvement Priority to 'improve access to services; shift attitudes and behaviours;

increase awareness and understanding; strengthen resilience and building capacity; strong partnership approaches'

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 The resources to fund this project will be via grant funding from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government.

#### **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 Details of the specific funding allocated to this project have been embargoed by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government however and any publicity of the funding will need to be agreed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

4.6.1 The development of this project will contribute to minimising the risk associated with changes to demography and the impact on services. As well as, minimising low level tensions in communities, aiding integration and resilience.

#### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 Commencement of the project is subject to the approval of funding.

#### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Director of Communities & Environment accepts the grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop and deliver the Community Connector Programme.

#### **7 Background documents**

None.