

Report of David Brown

Report to Director of Communities and Environment

Date: 08/10/2020

Subject: To accept grant funding to continue to deliver a refugee integration programme in the Yorkshire and Humber region

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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

1. Main issues

- Migration Yorkshire, based in Leeds City Council, has applied for, and been awarded funding for a new refugee integration programme of work under two projects named 'Refugee Integration Yorkshire & Humber' and 'Refugee Integration Service'. This new funding expands upon the current 'Refugee Integration Yorkshire and Humber' programme
- This refugee integration programme will improve the integration of refugees in Yorkshire and Humber through a 'whole-region' approach, coordinating strategic and operational interventions underpinned by comprehensive evidence and refugee participation. Refugee Integration Yorkshire & Humber will deliver a regional strategy with commitments from all partners, galvanise key services and civil society, and provide support and opportunities for individual refugees.
- The projects, and funding, will be managed by Migration Yorkshire and delivered across the Yorkshire & Humber region through a partnership of eighteen organisations.

2. Best Council Plan implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

The creation of the posts will contribute to the 'Best Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities', under the following priorities:

- Supporting growth and investment, helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential
- Supporting businesses and residents to improve skills, helping people into work and into better jobs
- Minimising homelessness through a greater focus on prevention
- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable
- Being responsive to local needs, building thriving, resilient communities
- Promoting community respect and resilience

3. Resource implications

- The total programme cost is £7,033,433, made up of £6,330,090 grant funding and £703,343 match funding.
- The projects will provide funding for all costs during the period for which Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire are responsible.

Recommendations

The Director of Communities and Environment is requested to:

- a) Accept grant agreements from the Home Office to manage the Refugee Integration programme.
- b) Enter into partnership agreements for delivery of the Refugee Integration programme with the following organisations:
 - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford
 - City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
 - Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)
 - Kingston upon Hull City Council
 - Kirklees Metropolitan District Council
 - Leeds Beckett University
 - Migrant English Support Hub (MESH)
 - North East Lincolnshire Council
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Sheffield City Council
 - Sheffield Hallam University
 - Solidaritech CIC
 - University of Huddersfield

- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

- c) Enter into agreements with other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the Refugee Integration programme.
- d) Enter into such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the Refugee Integration programme.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The report outlines the proposal for Leeds City Council to accept a grant from the Home Office for Migration Yorkshire to manage a refugee integration programme across Yorkshire and Humber, and distribute the grant to local delivery partner organisations.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Migration Yorkshire currently delivers a refugee integration programme funded through the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), which was covered in a key decision in October 2018.
- 2.2 Migration Yorkshire, submitted two funding applications to AMIF in May 2020 to continue and expand the refugee integration work under the project names 'Refugee Integration Yorkshire and Humber' and 'Refugee Integration Service'. Within these projects Migration Yorkshire was the lead bidder with a total of eighteen partner organisations. Migration Yorkshire was informed on 3rd September 2020 that both bids were successful.
- 2.3 Migration Yorkshire is based within Leeds City Council, but works equally across the region, reporting into a Migration Yorkshire Board made up of fifteen member Local Authorities.
- 2.4 Migration Yorkshire provides strategic leadership and local support across the Yorkshire and Humber region. It works with national, regional and local partners to ensure that the region can deal with, and benefit from, migration and works with agencies across the statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors to help support the delivery of high quality services to migrants in a way that benefits everyone living in local communities.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The aim of the refugee integration programme is to improve the integration of refugees in Yorkshire and Humber through a 'whole-region' approach, coordinating strategic and operational interventions underpinned by comprehensive evidence and refugee participation. Refugee Integration Yorkshire & Humber will deliver a regional strategy with commitments from all partners, galvanise key services and civil society, and provide support and opportunities for individual refugees.

3.2 The programme will be managed by Migration Yorkshire and will be delivered across the Yorkshire and Humber region in partnership with the following organisations:

- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
- Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
- Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford
- City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
- Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)
- Kingston upon Hull City Council
- Kirklees Metropolitan District Council
- Leeds Beckett University
- Migrant English Support Hub (MESH)
- North East Lincolnshire Council
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Solidaritech CIC
- University of Huddersfield
- Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

3.3 Migration Yorkshire's project management provides overall responsibility and co-ordination for the projects. This includes formal partnership arrangements with partner organisations, distribution of funding, progress of services, monitoring and reporting to the funders.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The need for this programme and the intended interventions were identified through consultation with local authorities and other organisations in Yorkshire and Humber. The projects are supported by local authorities in this region, and ongoing development and planning, regular consultation, meetings and conversations are taking place with the funders, local authorities, local delivery partners, strategic partners and other organisations.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been completed (appendix 1).

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The refugee integration programme will contribute to the 'Best Council Plan 2020 – 2025 Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities', under the following priorities:

- Supporting growth and investment, helping everyone benefit from the economy to their full potential

- Supporting businesses and residents to improve skills, helping people into work and into better jobs
- Minimising homelessness through a greater focus on prevention
- Keeping people safe from harm, protecting the most vulnerable
- Being responsive to local needs, building thriving, resilient communities
- Promoting community respect and resilience

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 Both projects will contain sustainability plans which consider 'sustainable infrastructure' priorities within the Best Council Plan.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 The total programme cost is £7,033,433, made up of £6,330,090 grant funding and £703,343 match funding.

4.4.1.1 Refugee integration Yorkshire and Humber has a total project cost of £3,163,004 (£2,846,704 grant and £316,300 match funding).

4.4.1.2 Refugee integration Service has a total project cost of £3,870,429 (£3,483,386 grant and £387,043 match funding).

4.4.2 The projects will provide funding for all costs during the period for which Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire are responsible.

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

4.5.1 This is a Key Decision due to the sums of money involved and is subject to call-in.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 Risks will be managed through a risk register constantly updated by the project manager and overseen by the project board.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The programme will have a positive impact on refugee integration across Yorkshire & Humber through a 'whole-region' approach benefiting refugees, partner organisations and the wider population.

6. Recommendations

6.1 The Director of Communities and Environment is requested to:

- a) Accept grant agreements from the Home Office to manage the Refugee Integration programme.

- b) Enter into partnership agreements for delivery of the Refugee Integration programme with the following organisations:
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
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 - Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- c) Enter into agreements with other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the Refugee Integration programme.
- d) Enter into such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the Refugee Integration programme

7. Background documents¹

7.1 Appendix 1 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.