

Report title: Accept Multiply Funding Agreement 2022-25

Date: 22 November 2022

Report of: Head of Employment and Skills

Report to: Director of City Development

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This decision is subsequent to the previous Executive Board key decision on 19 October 2022 to accept UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding (UKSPF) funding (including multiply) published at:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>

In November 2022 the Council received a Multiply Funding Agreement from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a total grant allocation of £1,274,399 to deliver numeracy courses to 1,585 Leeds adults during the period 2022 to 2025.

Recommendations What decision has been taken?

The Director of City Development decided to:

- a) Accept the Multiply Funding Agreement from WYCA for a local authority grant allocation of £1,274,399 over Years 2022 – 2025
- b) Authorise the Council to sign, seal and return the agreement to the WYCA legal team

What is this report about?

- 1 This Significant Operational Decision is subsequent to the previous Executive Board key decision on 19 October 2022 to accept UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding (UKSPF) funding (including multiply) published at:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>

In November 2022 the Council received a Multiply Funding Agreement from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a total grant allocation of £1,274,399 to deliver numeracy courses to 1,585 Leeds adults during the period 2022 to 2025.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The funding will be used to deliver numeracy courses to 1,585 Leeds adults during the period 2022 to 2025.
- 3 The multiply funded numeracy programmes align to the following Leeds City Council strategic priorities;
 - **Future Talent Plan**, where our vision is for a globally competitive city, where we work together to enable the right opportunities for people and businesses to thrive in a rapidly changing labour market and ensure that nobody is left behind. We will encourage people who have been economically inactive back into the workplace. We will enable people in work to learn new skills, progress throughout their career, and be able to change jobs. We will develop clear talent pipelines through promoting progression pathways and working together better as a city
 - **Leeds Best City Ambition**, which aims to help partner organisations and local communities in every part of Leeds to understand and support the valuable contribution everyone can offer – no matter how big or small – to making Leeds the best city in the UK. The Best City Ambition has 3 Pillars; Health and wellbeing, Inclusive growth and Zero carbon. These programmes contribute to all 3 pillars but predominately to pillars 1 and 2.
 - **Best Council Plan** - Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities with the city's Inclusive Growth Strategy, Health & Wellbeing Strategy and Climate Emergency declaration as key drivers and locality working as a core principle. The main Key Performance Indicators we will contribute are; number of people supported to improve their skills and number of people supported into work.
 - **Leeds inclusive Growth Strategy**, which sets out our ambition for Leeds. It is a route map of how best to deliver growth that is inclusive, draws on the talents of, and benefits all our citizens and communities. Linking to the twelve where the people of Leeds will be at the heart of everything we do, from equipping our young people with the right skills and careers advice, to enabling in-work progression, retraining and lifelong learning in our ever changing labour market. Out of the twelve big ideas our programmes will predominately link to the employers and people at the centre of the education and skills system and working together to create better jobs, tackling low pay and boosting productivity.
 - **Child Friendly Leeds**, where we're working to bring everyone together to make Leeds a child friendly city - Putting children and young people at the heart of a strong economy, in a compassionate city. Out of the 12 wishes we predominately will contribute to No. 8 - Leeds is a city that reduces the impact of poverty and helps families who need it.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 This community focused activity will be directly grant funded by WYCA to the Leeds City Council programme teams that plan and commission Community Learning on a hyper-local level. This will additionally ensure that community focused interventions funded through Multiply will align and provide a pathway for vulnerable citizens into Adult Education Budget funded (AEB) learning, rather than duplicate existing Community Learning provision.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 See previous Executive Board key decision on 19 October 2022 to accept UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) (including multiply) published at:
<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>

What are the resource implications?

- 6 The Council has an established programme team and suppliers delivering Adult and Community learning and this funding will enable the same resources to expand the learning portfolio to those Leeds citizens most in need of basic numeracy.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 The main risk is the sufficient engagement of citizens most in need of the numeracy learning that the funding facilitates. This will be managed by the long-established adult learning program team and our subcontracted community learning suppliers that understand the different needs and motivations of citizens living in the cities 1% to 20% LSOA's.

What are the legal implications?

- a) The Council procurement legal solicitor has reviewed the WYCA funding agreement and has identified the following consideration for the decision maker in all WYCA UKSPF funding agreements at Funding Agreement Clause 34.13. *“Subject to Clause 31.2 (Provider Not Responsible) and 34.8 (No Limit on Liability) the liability of the Provider will be Ten Million Pounds (£10,000,000) in aggregate in respect of all claims, losses or damages, whether arising under any indemnity from tort (including negligence), breach of Agreement or otherwise under or in connection with this Agreement”*

The legal solicitor opinion is that UKSPF devolved funding grant agreements from WYCA are non-negotiable and to secure this, and future, UKSPF funding the decision maker will need to acknowledge the liability limits.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 8 The agreement is for government funding devolved via WYCA for the years 2022 – 2025. There are no alternative funding streams to deliver the scale of Multiply adult learning in the City.

How will success be measured?

- 9 The number of courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money which over time is expected to support our work on addressing the cost of living crisis.
- 10 Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners.
- 11 The number of courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 12 Funding is for three years from November 2022 to December 2025

Appendices

- None.

Background papers

- None.