

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

19/01/2023

Report of: David Brown, Head of Migration Yorkshire

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

Migration Yorkshire, based in Leeds City Council, has applied for, and been awarded an extension to funding for our refugee integration programme of work under two projects named 'Refugee Integration Yorkshire & Humber' and 'Refugee Integration Service'. The original programme of work was approved in a key decision in October 2020.

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 total programme cost is £2,610,997, made up of £2,349,897 grant funding and £261,100 match funding. The projects will continue to provide funding for all costs during the period for which Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire are responsible.

Recommendations

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is requested to

- a) Accept grant agreements from the Home Office to manage the Refugee Integration programme and future funding under the same 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
 - 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
 - Migrant English Support Hub (MESH)
 - North-East Lincolnshire Council
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Sheffield Hallam University
 - Solidaritech CIC
 - University of Huddersfield
 - Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
- c) Note any future decisions will be taken as significant operational decisions on the back of this key decision in partnership with the participating organisations, and if funding continues to be received.
- d) Enter into agreements with other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the Refugee Integration programme.
- e) Enter such other documents that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the Refugee Integration programme.

What is this report about?

- 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 2020.
- 2 Migration Yorkshire submitted two applications for continued funding to AMIF in October 2022 to extend the refugee integration work under the projects named 'Refugee Integration Yorkshire and Humber' and 'Refugee Integration Service'. Migration Yorkshire was informed on 7th November 2022 that both bids were successful.
- 3 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.
- 4 Migration Yorkshire is based within Leeds City Council, but works equally across the region, reporting into a Migration Yorkshire Board made up of fifteen Local Authorities.
- 5 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

What impact will this proposal have?

- 6 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.

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

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 7 The proposal impacts the three pillars of the Best City Ambitions under the following ambitions:

- Investing to ensure better and more equal access to essential services in health and learning, developed with and accessible for every community across Leeds.
- Delivering a safe and welcoming city for people of all ages and from all communities in which residents feel more secure and have good friends.
- Working with housing providers, landlords, tenants and communities to improve poor quality housing, so everyone can have a home which supports good health, wellbeing and educational outcomes.
- Ensuring young people and those changing career in later life have the skills and job opportunities which enable them to realise their potential and thrive.
- Our businesses and social enterprises being innovative, creative, ambitious and connected to the local community they are in, with access to the skills they need to boost productivity and succeed.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 8 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.

What are the resource implications?

- 9 The total programme cost is £2,610,997, made up of £2,349,897 grant funding and £261,100 match funding.
- 10 Refugee integration Yorkshire and Humber has a total project cost of £1,247,441 (£1,122,697 grant and £124,744 match funding).
- 11 Refugee integration Service has a total project cost of £1,363,556 (£1,227,200 grant and £136,356 match funding).
- 12 The projects will continue to provide funding for all costs during the period for which Leeds City Council and Migration Yorkshire are responsible.

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

- 13 The main risk is failure to meet funder outputs, resulting in a loss of funding.
- 14 Risks are being managed through a risk register constantly updated by the project manager and overseen by the project board.

What are the legal implications?

- 15 This is a Key Decision due to the sums of money involved and is subject to call-in.
- 16 Any future decisions will be taken as significant operational decisions on the back of this key decision in partnership with the participating organisations, and if funding continues to be received.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 17 This is an extension to an existing grant agreement, and it is a requirement of the funder, the UK Responsible Authority, that the programmes are delivered by the same manner as the original programme, by the existing partnership for the extension period.

How will success be measured?

- 18 Success will be measured by specific outputs agreed with our funder, the UK Responsible Authority. These will be reported to them on a quarterly basis.
- 19 The programme will have a positive impact on refugee integration across Yorkshire and Humber through a 'whole-region' approach benefiting refugees, partner organisations and the wider population.

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

- 20 The programme will run from 1 January to 31 December 2023, with the possibility of an extension if further funding is obtained.

Appendices

- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening

Background papers

- None