

CABINET

DATE	15 th June 2022
REPORT OF	Councillor Philip Jackson, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Joanne Hewson Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for People, Health and Care
SUBJECT	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Multiply)
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	CB 06/22/06

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The Multiply initiative is one of the first priorities of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The fund is aimed at improving the numeracy levels of local people over the next three years and is in line with the Levelling Up mission to ensure that by 2030, the number of people successfully completing high quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. As such it will support both the Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities priorities and aligns to our skills framework.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a mixed revenue and capital allocation aimed at building pride in place and increasing life chances across the UK and replaces European and other funding streams which end in 2023. North East Lincolnshire has been allocated £6,244,819, of which £962,714 is ringfenced to Multiply, and this is the first of the Investment Plans to be submitted.

Multiply is one of the first priorities of the fund and is aimed at adults aged nineteen and over, and whilst some interventions suggested are designed to lead to the attainment of a qualification, non-qualification provision should be developed where more appropriate. The programme will last 3 years, and any provision should not de-stabilise any current Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded provision. The menu of interventions consists of ten areas of investment.

The funding allocation has been set centrally and will be drawn down on the successful submission of a 3-year Investment Plan, by 30th June 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Approves the submission of an Investment Plan for UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Multiply) to the Department for Education (DfE).

2. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for People, Health and Care in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and on behalf of the Greater Grimsby Board to take all actions necessary, including;
 - 2.1 Acceptance of the grant funding award from the Department for Education.
 - 2.2 Defrayal of the grant and any ancillary activity in support of the above recommendations.
3. Delegates to the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets the responsibility to execute all documentation arising.

REASONS FOR DECISION

To support the submission of the first UKSPF Investment Plan for Multiply for approval and to access the funding allocations by the deadline of 30 June 2022.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 North East Lincolnshire has been allocated a total of £962,714 for Multiply through UKSPF, split over 3 years, to support adult numeracy interventions.
- 1.2 Multiply is ringfenced entirely to adult numeracy skills interventions across the three-year delivery phase. Additional skills interventions can be included within the wider UKSPF programme when current funding streams expire.
- 1.3 The primary goal of Multiply is to boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work – and enable adults to achieve formal qualifications up to and including level 2 (both GCSE grade C/4 or above, and Functional Skills Qualifications. Indicative outcomes of the fund include the following:
 - a. Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.
 - b. Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.
 - c. Increased number of adults participating, acquiring, and evidencing skills through non-qualification provision, or towards a qualification, including online learning.
 - d. Improved labour market outcomes.
 - e. Increased adult numeracy (by supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work).

Indicative Outputs:

- a. Number of adult numeracy courses run in a local area through Multiply
- b. Number of people participating in Multiply funded courses, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender, age, and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring
- c. Number of people achieving a qualification, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender, age, and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring.

- d. Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers.
- e. Number of people referred from partners onto upskill courses.
- f. Number of different cohorts participating in numeracy courses (e.g., learners in prison, parents etc.).

2. NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 Collaborate with local partners, including employers, to produce an achievable but ambitious Investment Plan of interventions aligned to the investment prospectus as well as related local strategies, including the skills framework.
- 2.2 Deadline for submission of Investment Plan is 30 June 2022.
- 2.3 Department for Education will assess Investment Plans and approvals made from September 2022 when grant agreements and first payments are expected.

3 RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 3.1 The funding will support the objectives and opportunities as laid out above which are identified in the Council Plan, Economic Strategy and Skills Framework.
- 3.2 Activities for year 1 of the programme can begin at risk in advance of the Investment plans being submitted. There is, however, a risk that if approval is delayed, activities scheduled in year 1 may be compromised and lose funding.
- 3.3 There is a risk that the full allocation of the fund will not be allocated. This will be dependent on the Investment Plan.
- 3.4 Briefings have taken place with potential delivery partners, so they are fully aware of the fund and its criteria.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Do nothing – we could choose not to submit an Investment Plan; however, this is not a competitive process and the funds have already been allocated.

5 REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

There are positive reputational implications for the Council providing funding to support adult numeracy skills which will increase life chances and community pride.

6 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

This fund is aimed at adults aged 19 plus. An element of the initiative is to upskill those people without a level 2 qualification, therefore for those children and young people without this level of maths qualification, this will give them additional opportunities to achieve in a more flexible learning environment. Added to this for those adults who lack confidence in maths/numeracy, this initiative will give them the confidence to support, where applicable, younger children with such things as homework for example. Overall this is all about

upskilling and the knock on effect this will have on children and young people.

7 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 The total funding allocation from UKSPF for Multiply is £962,714.23, split across 3-years as follows:

- 2022/23 - £291,053.14
- 2023/24 - £335,830.55
- 2024/25 - £335,830.55

7.2 The Investment Plan should include an indicative spend profile across each of the three years.

7.3 A maximum of 10% of the funding allocation can be used for administrative expenditure.

7.4 Confirmation of allocations and grant agreement will follow from September 2022 when the Department for Education confirm approval of our Investment Plan.

7.5 The first payment for 2022/23 activity is expected to be paid from September 2022, with remaining payments made at the beginning of each financial year. Any underspend at the end of each financial year will be paid back.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications for the Multiply element of UKSPF.

9 CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

No, although will be involved in the defrayal of the fund should the investment plan be approved.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In April 2022 the Council received notification that it was being granted a total of upto a maximum of £962k over 3 years (allocations to be confirmed in September 2022 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in respect of the first priority Multiply. The Council in conjunction with partners will have to prepare an investment plan of how the funds will be spent and the expected outcomes to be achieved. This plan will be monitored by the DfE. Allocation amounts may be subject to change in Years 2 and 3 according to delivery against agreed outcome expectations. The grant also allows a maximum of 10% of the funding allocation to be used for administrative expenditure.

11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The funding enables the Council to work towards its strategic objectives and align with the skills framework.

11.2 The recommendations and delegations sought are consistent with an exercise of this nature.

11.3 Legal colleagues are available to advise and support the completion and signature of any funding contract and delivery of the project as and when required.

12 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no direct HR implications.

13 WARD IMPLICATIONS

13.1 This project is expected to benefit all wards and all residents living in North East Lincolnshire.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 Council Plan

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2022/02/NELC-Council-Plan-a11y.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiply-funding-available-to-improve-numeracy-skills>

15. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Sally Jack – Assistant Director Education & Inclusion

Karen Linton – Strategic Lead Skills & Employability

COUNCILLOR MARGARET CRACKNELL
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION