

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Multiply

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

**Introduction**

North East Lincolnshire Council is seeking bids from organisations wishing to deliver activity as part of the £962,714 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Multiply) (UKSPF).

Please read the Multiply Investment Prospectus, April 2022 (England) and the Technical Guidance, April 2022 (England) before starting work on a bid. They are available to download from this site:

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

The prospectus provides detailed information on the objectives of the Fund and the types of intervention it expects to see delivered.

The embedded excel spreadsheet identifies the type of activity sought locally and the funding allocated to each intervention.

[Multiply Spreadsheet North East Lincolnshire](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2022/07/Multiply-interventions.xlsx)

Whilst the fund is split over three years, there will be a review at the end of 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years with submission of an annual progress report and a revised investment plan for subsequent years of Multiply provision, this will enable us to ensure we have the right provision in place for subsequent years.

**Background**

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.

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 as set out in the Investment Prospectus. The following success measures have been identified for the whole programme at a national level:

1. More adults achieving maths qualifications (up to and including Level 2 – with GCSEs and Functional Skills Qualifications as the qualifications of choice in England – or equivalent and to increase participation in numeracy courses with the expectation that local areas evidence improvements in functional numeracy, rather than solely participation in Multiply interventions.
2. Improved labour market outcomes e.g fewer skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
3. Increased adult numeracy across the population – this overall impact, which goes beyond achieving certificates or qualifications, will track both the perceived and actual difference taking part in the programme makes in supporting learners to improve their understanding and the use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work – and to feel more confident when doing so.

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

We are interested in bids that build on local insight and knowledge, and proposals that align with long-term strategic plans for skills, target people most in need and support the overall objectives of Multiply.

The Council has been designated a lead authority by the UK Government. As a lead authority, it is responsible for:

* Issuing this invitation
* Receiving bids
* Assessing the bids
* Paying grants to successful projects and managing their performance

**What Type of Bids are We Looking For?**

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.

The £962,714 national allocation has been apportioned over the three years with no facility for rolling over any underspend. The split is as follows with delivery due to start in September 2022:

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| --- | --- |
| Year 1 – Financial year 22/23 | £291,053.14 |
| Year 2 – Financial year 23/24 | £335,830.55 |
| Year 3 – Financial year 24/25 | £335,830.55 |

First payments will be made to the LA in September 2022 for year 1. In years 2 and 3 first payments will then be received in April.

Further details of the anticipated nature of activity to be supported under each priority can be found in the prospectus and local spreadsheet.

Every effort should be made to draw complementary projects together with potential partners to provide for a programme based approach, but where this is not possible, it is acceptable to put programmes or individual projects forward.

**Funding**

We have used a nominal funding allocation of £800 per learner based on 60 Guided Learning Hours on the Multiply programme. This will bring funding in line with similar Maths provision such as AEB (£811 for uplift areas) and the funding model previously used for the Community Renewal Fund. Costing is based on an amount of guided learning hours and providers can bid for that full amount or less if delivering less hours, this makes room for a broader/more varied offer if providers can’t deliver full hours. For example, if a course was 30 hours e.g confidence building/budget management and require less hours this would attract £400, this would therefore increase the volume of participants a provider could deliver to.

A provider could request to increase the amount per learner, if running a course for smaller cohorts, where a particular need is demonstrated such as outreach centres, learners with additional support needs.

**What are the Target Outcomes?**

**Indicative outcomes of the fund include:**

1. Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.
2. Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.
3. Increased number of adults participating, acquiring, and evidencing skills through non-qualification provision, or towards a qualification, including online learning.
4. Improved labour market outcomes.
5. 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 of the fund include:**

1. Number of adult numeracy courses run in a local area through Multiply.
2. Number of people participating in Multiply funded courses, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender. Age and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring.
3. Number of people achieving a qualification broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender. Age and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring.
4. Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers.
5. Number of people referred from partners onto upskill courses.
6. Number of different cohorts participating in numeracy courses (e.g learners in prison, parents etc).

**Local Priorities**

We will prioritise bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local skills priorities and achieve the above outputs and outcomes.

Bidders should consider how their proposals align with the Council’s strategic ambitions/priorities, namely:

* **Priority One** – Stronger Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across the borough.
* **Priority Two** – Stronger Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience and resourcefulness.

Consideration should be given to how projects respond to key challenges, such as:

* Literacy and numeracy skills in Greater Lincolnshire are below those seen nationally (over half of residents aged 16-65 have numeracy levels at or below Entry Level 3 and 15% of the same population have literacy skills below Level 1).
* In Grimsby alone 21-25% of adults have no qualifications.
* Only 33% of Greater Lincolnshire residents aged 25/39 have a Level 4 qualification or above, compared to 53% nationally.
* High levels of deprivation, including benefit dependency within the population, including long-term unemployment affecting some groups.
* High proportions of households falling within low-income socio-demographic groups and the barriers this creates to participation in economic and local growth.
* The number of adults with basic skills (literacy, numeracy, digital) and low proportion of adults with higher level qualifications.
* Increasing participation in skills and employment programmes by those individuals who have additional barriers to employment but have not previously been engaged.
* Those that focus on priority engagement areas such as the East and West Marsh.

**How Bids will be Assessed**

NELC officers will complete a Stage 1 appraisal of all submitted proposals. Stage 1 will be a sift of all applications against the assessment template below (Annex 1). A full list of projects will be included in the information presented to the Stage 2 panel for information, including those recommended.

The stage 2 review will then be completed by a panel comprising of representatives from the newly established Local Partnership Group which has been set up to work in partnership with the local authority to drive, shape and support the interventions which will best serve the needs of the area across the three themes of the wider UKSPF namely Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills. This panel will be the ultimate decision maker.

**Bids will be assessed against:**

* The extent to which they meet the objectives of Multiply.
* The extent to which bids would support the delivery of local growth and employment support priorities.

**Submitting a Bid**

Bids must be submitted using the Multiply application form, which is available in the link below. Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

[Multiply application](https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2022/07/Multiply-Application-to-deliver-provision.docx)

**Bids must be submitted to this email address:** [**karen.linton@nelincs.gov.uk**](mailto:karen.linton@nelincs.gov.uk) **by 5th August 2022.**

Any queries should also be sent to the same email address which we will endeavour to respond to within 2 working days. The UK Government has stated it expects to announce the outcome of the submitted Investment Plan in September 2022. Following confirmation of a funding award, NELC will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders with the intention that delivery of provision will start September/October 2022.

Please note, as we will not have any final clarification on whether we can access any, or our full funding allocation until September, everything is subject to change.

**Annex 1 – Assessment Template**

The template below sets out how NELC aims to appraise bids:

|  |  |  |
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| Programme/Project | | |
| Project Name: |  | |
| Checklist | | |
| 1. Does the project/proposal address a need identified in the prospectus? | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| 1. Would the project duplicate other AEB funded local provision? | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| 1. Is the project/proposal available and accessible to diverse cohorts as per [Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-equality-duty) including those with dyscalculia or other protected characteristics? | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |
| 1. Does the project/proposal meet the outputs and outcomes identified? | | Yes ☐ No ☐ Partial ☐ |
| 1. Is there sufficient reassurance that the organisation can meet all reporting requirements? | | Yes ☐ No ☐ |

**Selection Criteria**

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| Section 1 – Strategic Fit |
| **Please consider the proposal’s overall contribution to the strategic objectives of Multiply** |
| How well does the proposal contribute to local needs set out in relevant local plans? |
| Comment: |

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| Section 2 – Deliverability, Effectiveness and Efficiency |
| **Deliverability: Please consider the overall deliverability of the project/proposal.** |
| Does the applicant have relevant experience in delivering projects of this type?  Does the applicant have in place the resources necessary to deliver the project?  Is the project deliverable within the stated timescales? |
| Comment: |
| 1. What is the risk that the project/proposal will not proceed in line with the stated timescales? |
|  |
| 1. What is the risk that the project/proposal will not proceed in line with the stated budget? |
|  |
| 1. What is the risk the project/proposal will not achieve the stated outputs and outcomes? |
|  |
| Has due diligence been undertaken?  Yes ☐ No ☐  If yes, is the applicant able to manage the project as described? |
| **Effectiveness: Please consider the overall effectiveness of the project/proposal including monitoring and reporting, the project budget and proposed outputs.** |
| Has an effective monitoring and reporting strategy/plan been identified?  Does the project budget reflect the stated activities? Is the budget reasonable in the light of the activities?  Do the stated outputs reflect the project activities and are they achievable? |
| Comment: |
| **Efficiency: Please consider the overall efficiency of the proposal, including value for money.** |
| Does the project represent an efficient mode of delivery?  Will it operate at an appropriate scale, providing good value for money, taking account of proposed outputs delivered and potential impact? |
| Comment: |

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| Section 3 – Panel Recommendation | | | | |
| Comment: | | | | |
| Progress  Progress with conditions  Reject | |  | | |
| Completed By: |  | | Date: |  |
| Reviewed By: |  | | Date: |  |

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| Proposed Conditions |
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