

MIGRANT IMPACT FUND**2 June 2009****Report of Corporate Director (Finance and Performance)**

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To consider a request from the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership for the City Council to become the Accountable Body for Migrant Impact Fund should its bid to central government be successful.			
Key Decision		Non-Key Decision	
			Referral from Cabinet Member
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A		
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATION

That, subject to discussions with Lancashire County Council as to who would be best placed to become the Accountable Body for the Migrant Impact Fund should the LDLSP's bid to central government be successful, that, if required, Lancaster City Council agree to undertake the role.

That subject to the above, the Revenue Budget be updated accordingly.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration was announced in the February 2008 Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship'.
- 1.2 Communities and Local Government (CLG) is allocating the fund on a regional basis through the government office with those regions experiencing higher levels of inward migration, or with less experience of dealing with the impacts of migration receiving more. All local service providers including the police, local authorities, and Primary Care Trusts will be eligible to benefit from this fund.
- 1.3 The north west region has been allocated £3,606,606 over the 2009/10-2010/11 period and LSP's have been encouraged to bring forward packages of activity within one overall project application.

2 REPORT

2.1 Since 2005 the district and Morecambe in particular, has experienced a large influx of Polish and other Eastern European migrants. This is the district's first experience of significant numbers of foreign workers and it has not yet developed a strategy for addressing the issues that have emerged due to language and cultural barriers.

2.2 Currently a working estimate exists of 2,000 Polish people in a small geographical area of the West End of Morecambe, based on a count of children enrolled at 3 local schools. Across the Lancaster District, the figure is believed to be much higher.

The LDLSP, through its Valuing People thematic group, has put together a bid to the fund the broad aims of which are to:

- Ease the pressures on service providers working with migrants
- Increase access to essential services for migrants
- Build the individual and collective capacity of migrant communities

2.3 The fund is for two years and the amount of funding being requested is in the region of £40,100 in 2009/10 and £58,500 in 2010/2011.

2.4 Bids to the fund have also been made by Lancashire County Council and two other districts in Lancashire (West Lancashire and Hyndburn). Whilst these bids are separate and distinct they have all been cross referenced to each other to demonstrate a "Lancashire" wide approach to this issue.

3 DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

The funding bid has been put together by a group of agencies working to deliver services to and supporting the East European migrant community in the west end of Morecambe and is based on an understanding of the needs of those communities.

5 OPTIONS AND OPTIONS ANALYSIS (including risk assessment)

1 That, depending upon Government Office's response to these bids from across Lancashire, discussions take place between the City Council and Lancashire County Council as to which organisation is best placed to become the Accountable Body for this fund. If it is determined that that the City Council is best placed to be that body then Cabinet agrees to become the Accountable body for the Migrant Impact Fund.

2 To not agree to become the accountable body for this funding.

Risk Analysis

This grant allocation (if successful) is not ring-fenced and has no mandatory reporting process against it other than that already required (e.g. national indicators). The LSP will be asked to submit a self assessment setting out project progress.

As the City Council already acts as Accountable Body for the LDLSP in respect of second homes funding, accounting procedures are already in place in respect of transfer of funds to the LDLSP and therefore the City Council could become the Accountable Body should discussions with Lancashire County Council recommended that course of action.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Sustainable Community Strategy

Improve community cohesion, a sense of belonging and taking part by promoting positive relationships between the diverse and emerging communities and groups in Lancaster district.

Corporate Plan

Deliver the Council's actions in the LDLSP's Valuing People Thematic Group Action Plan – develop and implement a Community Cohesion Strategy

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Will have a positive impact in supporting the new east european community establishing itself in the district.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

CLG will hold the fund and will make payments to local service providers. As LSPs are not legal entities able to receive funds directly, the LSP will need to nominate one member to act as lead partner and accountable body. Dependant upon discussions with Lancashire County Council it has been requested that Lancaster City Council undertake the role. If the Council do undertake the role, a full analysis of the budget (attached at Appendix A) will be undertaken.

In line with Government policy the grant would not be ring-fenced. Funds allocated will be paid in full to Lancaster City Council in one instalment at the beginning of the project and arrangements would need to be put in place to carry forward the 2010/11 funding allocation. The Revenue Budget would need to be updated accordingly.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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