

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Multiply
Invitation to submit expressions of interest (EOI)



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Introduction

North Lincolnshire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from organisations wishing to deliver activities as part of the Multiply programme.

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 Multiply Investment Prospectus provides detailed information on the objectives of the fund and the types of intervention the DFE (Department for Education) expects to see delivered.

Should you wish to submit an expression of interest form for North Lincolnshire's Multiply project, please see [Submitting an Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#).

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

Background

Multiply 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 they are more appropriate. The programme will last 3 years, and any provision should not de-stabilise or replicate 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.

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

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

- Issuing this invitation
- Receiving expressions of interest
- Assessing expressions of interest
- Paying grants to successful projects and managing their performance

What Type of EOI's are we looking for?

The primary goal of Multiply is to improve people's ability to use numeracy 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).

North Lincolnshire's 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:

Year 1 – Financial year 22/23	£279,742.82
Year 2 – Financial year 23/24	£351,553.13
Year 3 – Financial year 24/25	£351,533.13

Further details of the anticipated nature of activity to be supported under each priority can be found in the prospectus and by emailing Multiply@northlincs.gov.uk.

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

Funding

Please email Multiply@northlincs.gov.uk for the costing spreadsheet. This should be referred to when working out your course costings, which should include oncosts.

What are the Target Outcomes?

Indicative outcomes of the fund include:

- 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 of the fund include:

- 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)

Local Priorities

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

Bidders should consider how their proposals align with our Council Plan, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and Levelling up priorities, namely:

Our ambition is to support local businesses on aspects such as removing barriers to employment and enabling higher level skills by delivering interventions that boost productivity, increase jobs, and improve living standards.

Our UKSPF (United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund) and Levelling up priorities are:

Supporting Local Business

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion
- Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth
- Targeted support to help businesses grow (e.g., innovation, productivity, energy, efficiency, low carbon, and exporting)
-

People and Skills

- Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work
- Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need
- Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market

Our priorities enable the Council and our partners to achieve the outcomes for the people and place of North Lincolnshire. Through our Council Plan priorities, the following intentions fit with the proposed Multiply Provision:

Keeping people safe and well

- Ensure the care sector is of high quality and care leavers receive the on-going support they need
- Reduce health inequalities and promote wellbeing

Enabling resilient and flourishing communities

- Support our volunteers and create stronger communities with access to a range of leisure, culture and other facilities

Enabling economic growth and renewal

- Encourage personal ambition through access to life-long, high quality education, guidance, training and opportunities to upskill and gain experience through volunteering
- Regenerate town centres and expand the local economy to secure more highly skilled jobs

Providing value for money for local tax payers

- Get it right for our customers first time

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.
- Only 33% of Greater Lincolnshire residents aged 25/39 have a Level 4 qualification or above, compared to 53% nationally.
- Elevated 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.

How Expression of Interests will be Assessed

A team of NLC officers will complete an appraisal of all submitted proposals against the criteria below:

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against:

- The extent to which they meet the objectives of Multiply.
- The extent to which they are deliverable within the required timelines.
- The extent to which EOIs (Expression of Interest) would support the delivery of local growth and employment support priorities.
- Compliance with policies, procedures and documented listed in the Expression of Interest Form.

Submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI)

Expressions of interest must be submitted using the Multiply Expression of Interest form, which is available in the link below. Expressions of Interest submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

Prospective applicants can submit an Expression of Interest by following the link:

[Multiply Application](#)

Providers will be required to monitor their provision and they will be expected to provide monthly, annual and end of project reports and evaluations and attend any dissemination and evaluation activities. This will include case-studies, data, and other evidence-based activities to show the outputs and outcomes of the project. Providers will also need to comply with GDPR, we will provide more information to successful applicants and also details of enrolment processes. The council will undertake monitoring visits to successful providers.

EOI's must be submitted to the Multiply email address: multiply@northlincs.gov.uk by the closing date of the wave applicants are applying for. Deadlines can be found in the table below:

Deadlines	Wave one (For applicants who are able to begin delivery immediately)	Wave two (For applicants who are able to begin delivery later in 2022)
Deadline for prospective applicants	16:30 Friday 30 th September 2022	16:30 Monday 31 st October 2022
Deadline for additional information requests (if applicable)	16:30 Tuesday 4 th October 2022	16:30 Wednesday 2 nd November
Applicants to be informed of application outcome	No later than 16:30 Monday 31 st October 2022	No later than 16:30 Wednesday 30 th November 2022

Further rounds may follow for future years should they be required.

Following confirmation of a funding award, NLC will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders with the intention that delivery of provision, this will include all GDPR requirements.

Please note, that we are awaiting a decision from the DfE as to whether Multiply will be subject to OFSTED inspections.

If you have any queries regarding North Lincolnshire council's Multiply project, please email Multiply@northlincs.gov.uk

Appendix 1 – Assessment Template

The template below sets out how NLC aims to appraise EOIs:

Programme/Project	
Project Name/Applicant	
Checklist	
1. Does the project/proposal address a need identified in the prospectus?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. AEB funded local provision will not be duplicated?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the project/proposal meet the outputs and outcomes identified?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are all legal requirements as per question 9 of the expression of interest form in place?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
All of the above criteria must be met.	

Selection Criteria

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

Section 2 – Deliverability
Deliverability: Please consider the overall deliverability of the project/proposal
a) Does the applicant have relevant experience in delivering projects of this type?
b) Does the applicant have in place the resources necessary to deliver the project?
c) Is the project deliverable within the stated timescales?

Section 3– Effectiveness and Efficiency
Effectiveness: Considers the overall effectiveness of the project/proposal including monitoring and reporting, the project budget, and proposed outputs.
a) Do the stated outputs reflect the project activities and are they achievable?

b) Is the budget reasonable in the light of the activities and provide value for money in line with the Investment Plan spreadsheet?

c) How robust are the planned quality assurance and monitoring processes?

d) How effective is risk management in achieving the stated outputs and outcomes?