


London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham LEADER'S URGENCY REPORT MAY 2018		 hammersmith & fulham
EU FUNDING BID TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF A REFUGEE AND MIGRANT INTEGRATION HUB IN HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM		
Report of the Leader – Councillor Stephen Cowan		
Open Report		
Classification - For Decision		
Key Decision: Yes		
Other services consulted: Housing Solutions Early Help		
Wards Affected: ALL		
Accountable Director: Steve Miley – Director Children's Services		
Report Author: Zahra Beg Refugee Resettlement Programme manager		Contact Details: Tel: 07909978619 E-mail: zahra.beg@lbhf.gov.uk
<u>Reasons for Urgency:</u> Officers intend to bid for £1,263,071 of grant money from the EU Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund. The deadline for submission of the bid is 5pm May 9 th . The bid requires 25% match funding which equates to £315,768. The bid will not be accepted unless there is a letter from the Strategic Finance Director confirming the availability of match funding.		
<u>Date by which decision is required:</u> 9th May 2018 by 2pm.		

AUTHORISED BY:

The Leader has signed this report.

DATE: 9 May 2018

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This is a proposal to bid for £1,263,071 of EU funding to establish a one stop migrant integration centre in Hammersmith and Fulham. A Refugee and Migrant Integration Hub would enable refugees and migrants to speedily acquire skills needed to successfully integrate into British society and communities and reduce isolation and alienation. The EU Asylum and Integration Fund has £40m in project funding to disburse to successful applicants. The bid requires 25% of match funding from successful bidders. The match funding requiring a Leaders Urgent Decision is £315,768 over a 24-month period.
- 1.2. It is anticipated that cashable savings could be made by centralising and coordinating existing services to, for example NRPF families and Unaccompanied Asylum seekers but further detailed analysis would need to take place to ascertain the projected savings. The urgency regarding Leaders Decision is that the deadline for the bid is 5pm May 9th 2018.
- 1.3. If the bid is successful, the funding will enable the establishment of a Refugee and Migrant Integration Hub in Hammersmith and Fulham. In parallel with waiting for the outcome of the bid, further financial and legal due diligence will be undertaken on the project before final commitment is made.
- 1.4. Match funding is provided for 2 years. The Council will need to consider what happens after the 2-year period. Either the service will need to identify alternative long-term funding or the Council will need to consider the future of the service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Council approves £315,768 of match-funding to support an application for £1,263,071 of European Union Asylum and Integration Funding.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. It is anticipated there will be an increase in refugees coming for resettlement due to ongoing Home office programmes, particularly the Refugee Resettlement Programme. Given Hammersmith & Fulham has an on-going commitment to support social inclusion for the most vulnerable residents. The Hub would improve the engagement which vulnerable individuals and groups have with society and their ability and opportunity to participate fully.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. Hammersmith and Fulham has a strong reputation for active and compassionate engagement with Refugees and Migrants. For example, sending social workers to the 'Calais Jungle' to assess and resettle young asylum seekers and leading on the implementation of Lord Dubs amendment.

- 4.2. Since September 2016, LBHF have participated in two Home office programmes to resettle refugees in LBHF from Syria and other countries in conflict, funded by the Home office. This is sponsored by Cllr Fennimore and in LBHF is called the Refugee Resettlement Programme. The two Home Office programmes are: the Vulnerable Persons Scheme (VPS) and the Vulnerable Children at Risk Scheme (VCRS). These are 5 year programmes. We have so far resettled 15 Adults and 10 children from Syria and Sudan (6 families). Within these programmes, the Home Office encourages boroughs to establish integration and community support to reduce dependency on boroughs - knowing boroughs often have limited funds to do this.
- 4.3. The opportunity to bid for funding from the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) was only recently identified. There is up to £40m set aside for this fund. The bid must be for a minimum of £300,000 with 25% match-funding. The specific objective of this fund is: *“Supporting legal migration to Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals.”*
- 4.4. Our proposal is to establish a Refugee and Migrant Integration Hub in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- 4.5. This would be a one-stop migrant integration centre where families could receive help in many areas. As well as giving them advice and assistance, the emphasis of integration would be on helping them to navigate services for themselves and their children. The Hub would also be a place where Refugees and Migrants could meet to reduce feelings of isolation and take part in social activities. There would also be dedicated services they could access such as Housing, Benefits, Jobs, Trauma counsellor, Health, Integration and Orientation advisors. A Refugee Mums-Net platform would be set-up where mums can seek advice on any child care issue in their own language. A key aim would be to start building community familiarisation and orientation work with migrant families in a structured way. All this would increase and promote their integration into British society.
- 4.6. The target groups for the Hub would be:
- Refugees under the Home office Vulnerable Persons Scheme
 - Refugees and their Children under the Vulnerable Children at Risk Scheme
 - Asylum seeker Families and Single Adults supported by the Council
 - Unaccompanied Minors Leaving Care children
 - Homeless Refugee families living in Temp accommodation.
- 4.7. Property to be used as a Refugee and Migrant Integration Hub has already been identified. The Hub would also host key community organisations working in this area. The Hub has been fully costed with premises, start up and staffing costs.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1. There are no other options available to raise this match-funding.
- 5.2. This funding stream is only open for bids from 11 April to 9 May 2018.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. This bid has been prepared after consultation with the Refugee Resettlement Board and colleagues' in Housing Solutions, Children's and Early Help Services and Corporate Finance.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no possible negative impacts on any groups with protected characteristics under the terms of the Equalities Act 2010 (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity race; religion or belief, and; sex).
- 7.2. Implications verified/completed by: Peter Smith, Head of Policy, tel. 020 8753 2206.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from submitting the bid as referred to within this report. If the bid is successful then legal advice will be provided on the terms and conditions of the agreement.
- 8.2 Implications verified/completed by: Rhian Davies, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services, tel. 020 7641 2729.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The total match funding required for this bid is £315,768, as shown below. It is recommended that this be funded by any substitute funding that can be identified before the scheme commences. As a last resort up to £315,768 may be funded from the Corporate Demands and Pressures Reserve (which stands at £11.5m at the close of 2017/18).

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Match Funding required	78,979	142,073	94,716	315,768
Total project costs	315,914	568,294	378,863	1,263,071

- 9.2 The funding is for 2 years and the Council needs to consider what happens when it expires. After that period the service will need to secure alternative funding or the council will need to consider ceasing the service.

Implications verified/completed by Andrew Lord, Head of Strategic Planning and Monitoring, Corporate Finance, tel. 0208 753 2531

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

10.1. There are no businesses implications from this report.

10.2. Implications verified/completed by: Alben Karameros, Economic Development Team, tel. 020 7938 8583

11. COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1. A Refugee and Migrant Integration Hub would enable refugees and migrants to integrate easily in the British society and reduce alienation and isolation. Integrating refugees and migrants in the British society will encourage the development of new skills which can lead to employment opportunities.

12.2. All funds awarded must be spent for the purposes specified within this report.

12.3. Implications verified/completed by: Andra Ulianov, Procurement Consultant, tel. 020 8753 2284

12. IT IMPLICATIONS

12.1. There are no ICT implications from this report.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

13.1 We have a Refugee Resettlement Programme Board. This AMIF Funding Grant would likely sit as a Sub-group to this Board. Performance, monitoring and audit compliance will be rigorously carried out by the UKRA Home Office Funding Team. During the lifetime of AMIF funding, the project will go through a series of interactions with UKRA to monitor both financial and operational activity and this ensure that the project is being run in accordance with AMIF funding requirements.

13.1. Implications verified/completed by: Michael Sloniowski, Risk Manager, tel. 020 8753 2587.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
	None		

LIST OF APPENDICES: None