



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

8 September 2022

Report of the Director Economy and Regeneration

Multiply Programme
(Clean Growth and Regeneration)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County Wide

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is a key decision because it will be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek Cabinet approval for:

a) The Council to act as the accountable body for the Government's three year, Multiply programme for Derbyshire covering the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 and any associated grant funding awarded by government for the period

b) Authority to be delegated to the Executive Director of Place to undertake any operational decisions required to implement the Multiply programme within Derbyshire. This will allow the Council to respond flexibly and effectively to any challenges, risks and

opportunities that occur during the grant period and maintain our ability to swiftly adopt delivery as required.

- c) The Council to accept the total Grant funding from the Department for Education, split over the three years of the Programme.

3. Information and Analysis

Multiply and Levelling Up

- 3.1 A key component of the Government's Levelling Up agenda is to ensure that by 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of England. Accordingly, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has allocated £559m to the Multiply Programme to be spent on three components of Multiply:
 1. New local numeracy provision (£270,434,517 in England)
 2. A national digital numeracy platform; and
 3. On testing new approaches to addressing barriers to participation.
- 3.2 The Multiply Programme is about helping people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work. For example, this could be improving household finances, helping children with homework, making more sense of the facts in the media, or improving numeracy skills specific to a line of work.
- 3.3 To achieve this, Government has provisionally allocated local areas with funding over a three-year period to develop and design a range of flexible interventions that fit around people's lives and are tailored to specific needs, circumstances, sectors and industries.
- 3.4 The overall objective of Multiply is to increase the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population across the UK. Government have identified the following success measures for the whole programme at a national level:
 1. More adults achieving maths qualifications courses (up to, and including, Level 2).
 2. Improved labour market outcomes
 3. Increased adult numeracy across the population

Derbyshire and Multiply

- 3.5 In April 2022, Government released a Multiply Investment Prospectus and technical guidance. The Prospectus invited the GLA, Mayoral Combined Authorities and upper tier/unitary authorities outside of these areas in England, to develop investment plans in return for Multiply Funding.
- 3.6 To support local areas to identify the right provision and complete their Investment Plans, Government set the following general principles around the programme:
- 3.7 **Menu of Interventions:** Government designed a menu of interventions which local authorities can draw down from, these included:
- a) Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications.
 - b) Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
 - c) Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace
 - d) Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in numeracy order to access a certain job/career
 - e) New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification.
 - f) Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression.
 - g) Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence
 - h) Numeracy courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system
 - i) Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need
 - j) additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.
- 3.8 **Target Audience:** target learners are adults 19+ who have not previously attained a GCSE Grade 4/C or higher maths qualification. They can either be working towards a maths GCSE or Functional Skills Qualification, need specific numeracy skills for their work or progression, or just want to brush up on the skills to help them get on in life and work.

3.9 **Existing arrangements:** Multiply interventions should not displace, replace and / or duplicate any existing adult numeracy provision, such as activity funded through the existing Adult Education Budget (AEB) statutory entitlement for maths qualifications.

3.10 **Derbyshire's Multiply Allocation:** The following table sets out Derbyshire's indicative Multiply Allocation and the Council can use up to 10% of the full allocation to cover administration of the programme over the three-year period.

<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>Total Allocation</u>
£1,137,603.28	£1,312,619.16	£1,312,619.16	£3,762,841.60

3.11 **Derbyshire County Council Multiply Investment Plan:** Since the launch of the Prospectus and technical guidance in April, a working group of relevant officers from Place, Children Services and Public Health has developed the Council's Investment Plan. This work has been carried out in conjunction with DACES Governance Board and our Corporate Management Team to ensure our Investment Plan demonstrated fit and alignment with local strategies such as the Council Plan and our COVID Recovery Strategy. The Investment Plan received sign off from the Managing Director, having been agreed by CMT, and was submitted to Government by the 30 June 2022 deadline.

3.12 A copy of the detailed Investment Plan submitted to Government is provided at Appendix 3, but in summary, the Council's approach to the Multiply Programme is to target families via Family learning, care leavers, low-income households, and vulnerable populations (offenders, travellers, disability, carers, BAME, rural poverty) via the following interventions which will be aimed at: addressing the cost of living crisis (maximising income and managing money); improving physical and mental well-being; promotion of sustainable activities and reducing waste; and, developing the skills needed to enter and progress in employment and support employer skills needs. The interventions we will deliver, and which are identified in our Investment Plan, are:

- a) Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace
- b) New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification
- c) Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression

- d) Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners
- e) Numeracy courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system
- f) Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence
- g) Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money.

3.13 The Investment Plan only required high-level milestones to be set out at this stage e.g. when courses will be starting, when procurement process will begin, when contracting arrangements will commence and when providers will be identified.

3.14 Consideration is still being given as to the type and level of delivery partners that may need to be procured to ensure successful delivery of the Programme. However, the Council will need to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for the receipt and disbursement of Multiply funding. That includes ensuring appropriate due diligence is in place to establish which providers and / or organisations will deliver Multiply funding, establishing value for money, complying with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, as appropriate, as well as day-to-day monitoring of performance.

3.15 The Council will need to contract with each project, make and monitor payments to projects including examining claims and supporting evidence, and report on progress to government. This is a common feature of grant schemes and one the Council has extensive experience of performing.

Next Steps

3.16 At the time of writing, Government has not issued a formal Grant Determination Letter or Memorandum of Understanding. However, it has been confirmed that the Council's Investment Plan has been agreed and that the first instalment of the funds will be received towards the end of September.

3.17 A Programme Board is being established to ensure appropriate oversight of the activity and timely delivery of the Plan. It will be service by the Employment and Skills Service within the Place department which is providing strategic leadership to the work and will consist of relevant officers from Economy and Regeneration, Finance, Legal and Procurement with representation from key delivery partners such as Adult

Education. The Programme Board will provide strategic and operational support in delivering the Multiply Programme in accordance with the grant agreement between DCC and Government.

4. Resources

- 4.1 The resources required to successfully deliver the project over the next three years will be paid for primarily from the 10% administration fee included within the grant, but also as necessary from staff resources already within the Council. The Council will need to recruit a full-time Contract Manager to monitor the delivery of the programme, and a data input officer to ensure the relevant data is captured to meet the Department for Education's requirements.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 As part of our Investment Plan development process, the County Council also consulted partners from across the County, including potential delivery organisations and the Department for Work and Pensions. This consultation has shaped the Investment Plan and resulted in the Plan being accepted by Government. Further consultation with partners through an online webinar further strengthen the collective understanding of the investment plan outcomes.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 To have not submitted a three year Multiply Investment Plan for Derbyshire by 30th June 2022 would have resulted in Derbyshire not receiving up to £3,762,841.60 of Multiply programme funding investment that has been allocated to Derbyshire to improve adult numeracy skills. This would have negatively impacted those businesses and residents who could most benefit from improved numeracy skills. It would also be a lost opportunity to improve the skills base of the county and support our levelling up and growth ambitions.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

[Multiply Investment Prospectus](#)

[Multiply Technical Guidance](#)
[Multiply Allocations](#)

9. Appendices

Appendix 1- Implications.

Appendix 2 – Derbyshire County Council Multiply Investment Plan

Appendix 3 – Delivery Spreadsheet

10. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet approves:

- a) The Council to act as the accountable body for the Government's three year, Multiply programme for Derbyshire covering the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25 and any associated grant funding awarded by government for the period
- b) Authority to be delegated to the Executive Director of Place to undertake any operational decisions required to implement the Multiply programme within Derbyshire. This will allow the Council to respond flexibly and effectively to any challenges, risks and opportunities that occur during the grant period and maintain our ability to swiftly adopt delivery as required.
- c) The Council to accept the total Grant funding from the Department for Education, split over the three years of the Programme.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

11.1 To enable the Council to deliver the Multiply Programme as set out in this report.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period? Yes

12.1 Yes, it is necessary to waive the call-in period as the decision is urgent and any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interest. Councillor Tony Kemp – Chairman of the Improvement & Scrutiny Committee – Resources has approved the waiver of the call-in period and agreed both the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and that it should be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

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Implications**Financial**

The allocation to the Council is

<u>2022/23</u>	£1,137,603.28
<u>2023/24</u>	£1,312,619.16
<u>2024/25</u>	£1,312,619.16
Total	£3,762,841.60

The Year 1 (22-23 FY) allocation was based upon a 12 month spend, but the reality is that the delivery time is only 6 months. The Council has programmed to spend the full £1,137,603.28, and it will need to make decisions over the coming months on the actual likely spend given the reduced timescale. This unallocated budget will need to be returned to the Department for Education as there are no budget role overs. Monies not spent in each financial year will be returned. The DFE will make payments on that basis.

As contracts will be paid on an outcomes basis (in arrears) there is no risk to the Council so long as appropriate monitoring and checks on eligibility of expenditure have taken place.

Legal

The Council has the power to act as the Accountable Body for the Multiply Investment under s 1 -4 of the Localism Act 2011 and although there is no statutory requirement for the council to act as Accountable Body the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus makes it clear that it is anticipated that the Council will fulfil this role.

Any funding awarded to the Council following the submission of the Investment Plan will be provide by way of a Section 31 ring-fenced grant under the Local Government Act 2003.

The grant determination letter will be accompanied by a Memorandum of Understanding which will set out the fund requirements and obligations.

These requirements and obligations will be included in any onward grant agreements with providers to mitigate any risk to the council.

The Memorandum of Understanding will also set out the success measures against which the council will be measured to ensure that the objective of the funding has been met, this being to increase levels of functional numeracy in the adult population

Human Resources

3.1 The funding received to support the management of the programme (10%) is sufficient to cover any additional costs of the staffing of the project.

Information Technology

4.1 There are no IT requirements as it is anticipated that all data returns will be via existing Council systems.

Equalities Impact

5.1 Although no separate Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken the programmes design is such that it will support those with protected characteristics.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 Meets the needs of the Economic Recovery Strategy

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None.