# 

# Expression of Interest

For

**Multiply**

North Northamptonshire Council

# Section 1: Introduction

**Expressions of Interest**

Multiply is funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is a national programme to improve adult functional numeracy skills. Multiply supports the Levelling Up mission to ensure that by 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the United Kingdom.

Multiply will be delivered 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25, commencing formally in October 2022 and ending at the end of July 2025.

When completing the Expressions of Interest form please refer to the Multiply Investment Prospectus and Technical Guidance: [Multiply: funding available to improve adult numeracy skills - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiply-funding-available-to-improve-numeracy-skills).

**This form will need to be fully completed and submitted to** procurement@northnorthants.gov.uk **by noon, Friday 19th August 2022.**

Please note that North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is interested in innovative and experiential activities. Further details are provided in the document.

Completed Expression of Interests (EOI) meeting our ambitions are likely to have the opportunity to move to the formal procurement process for the Multiply Investment Plan for North Northamptonshire.

Our vision is set out below:

North Northamptonshire Council is seeking providers to deliver a range of new and exciting projects and activities aimed at improving maths literacy. It is anticipated that these will build general as well as mathematical confidence amongst the target groups. We are keen that people should feel empowered at the end of the experience - it should be positive, building self-esteem, as well as acting as a springboard for further development. Outdoor activities are welcomed, as are arts and health related offers.

Currently NNC is interested in potential provider suggestions particularly around experiential activities and new ways of engaging target populations. We are keen to use innovative approaches to maximise engagement and outcomes, and to embed maths learning into projects which deliver additional benefits.

For NNC successful providers will be able to deliver exciting projects that include mathematics for living (less emphasis on classroom-based activity), be able to deliver at volume and at pace as well as demonstrating value for money.

We are interested in working with the VCSE sector as well as local employers to maximise reach to the priority groups.

Target groups

* Left behind communities
* Prisoners/ offenders
* Single parents
* New populations
* Looked after children (post 16)

Outcomes

* Completion of programme of activities
* Improved maths functionality
* Improved general personal confidence
* Ability to budget/plan
* Improved skills for employability
* Pathway to new opportunities identified
* Move to enrolment for formal qualifications

## General Requirements

* 1. NNC is considering setting up a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). The DPS procedure is separate to this EOI. This process is being used to gather ideas that meet our vision.
  2. Crucially all agencies must comply with the funding rules for the Multiply programme and enable NNC to achieve its ambition for the area by delivering the vision outlined previously.
  3. **Please note:** this is **a** request for Expressions of Interest. This document does not form any part of an invitation to tender but may lead to a procurement process. Any supplier responding to this EOI is doing so to help develop a procurement process that is accessible to the market.

## Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

* 1. **Please note:** all information included in this EOI is confidential and only for the recipients’ knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party without prior written authorisation.
  2. All responses will be treated confidentially. However, please be aware that we are subject to the disclosure requirements of the FOI Act and that potentially any information we hold is liable to disclosure under that Act. For this reason, we strongly advise that any information you consider to be confidential is labelled as such. In the event that a request is subsequently made for disclosure under FOI the request will be dealt with in accordance with the legislation.

## Background

* 1. The Multiply programme has been launched as part of the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme, by the DfE. Multiply was announced in the Autumn Spending Review and in the Levelling Up White Paper as part of a range of initiatives that aim to boost adult skills. The programme is for 19+ adults who do not have a GSCE at Grade 4 (or equivalent) and aims to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work – from household finances, to helping children with homework, to making more sense of the facts in the media and improving employability / job prospects.
  2. It is intended that Multiply will offer a range of options that fit around people’s lives and are tailored to specific needs, circumstances, sectors and industries. Local provision will need to complement the roll out of a national e-learning platform, and complement existing provision in the local area, such as that funded by the Adult Education Budget.
  3. Local areas are expected to measurably improve adult functional numeracy levels locally, including through increasing the number of adults participating in, and achieving, adult numeracy qualifications up to and including Level 2 (both GCSE Grade C/4 or above, and Functional Skills Qualifications). Improved labour market outcomes are also expected - with fewer numeracy skills gaps reported by employers, and an increase in the proportion of adults that progress into sustained employment and / or education.
  4. We would like to invite Expressions of Interest for innovative Multiply compliant provision for a range of projects over the lifetime of the funding (as set out nationally). Submitting an EOI does not guarantee any award as explained in Section 1 and/or accepted on to any future tender opportunities. Inclusion in any subsequent procurement process (e.g. DPS) does not guarantee award of work but will ensure that your organisation can work with NNC subject to organisations who meet the exclusion and selection criteria Organisations may express an interest and capability in being considered to deliver across the full range of activities or focus on specific groups or locations. You will need to demonstrate how your proposal would achieve the outcomes listed previously. In addition, you may find it useful to include any added value you can offer.

* 1. The Council is not being prescriptive in how services are delivered – indeed we are actively seeking innovation that delivers in line with the funding guidelines and our vision.
  2. Ideally successful organisations would offer engaging and experiential projects that improve overall self-esteem as well as the maths skills of participants. Positive outcomes will need to be clearly evidenced and meet the council’s ambition for added value together with the funding requirements of Multiply.

## Allocation to North Northamptonshire

* 1. North Northamptonshire Council has been allocated just over £1.9m over a three-year period:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Funding Allocation (£)** | **Funding Allocation 2022-23 (£)** | **Funding Allocation 2023-24 (£)** | **Funding Allocation 2024-25 (£)** |
| 1,909,633 | 577,331 | 666,151 | 666,151.86 |

* 1. It is anticipated that the programme will commence in October 2022 and run until the end of March 2025:

Year One - October 2022 to March 2023

Year Two - April 2023 to March 2024

Year Three - April 2024 to March 2025

* 1. To diversify the market and ensure a broad range of providers and activities we are encouraging Expressions of Interest from employers, education providers and the VCSE. We are looking for innovation and new models. All interested organisations will need to clearly demonstrate their reach into the relevant communities and groups in North Northamptonshire.
  2. Potential/expected bidders may include:
* VCSE organisations
* Universities and Training Organisations including colleges
* Employers
* Small group of partners working together or as a consortium
* Large partnerships – possibly working as joint ventures
  1. The Expressions of Interest submitted will be considered against the following criteria so that we can broaden the market and source innovative approaches:
* Innovative delivery models
* Added value
* Local reach within the targeted groups
* A verifiable track record in delivering successful outcomes for the individuals and communities identified as a priority by NNC
* Commercial and operational experience and capacity to deliver at volume and at pace
* Support, training and development experience

## Local Government Review

* 1. Since April 2021 a new unitary council has been in existence. North Northamptonshire Council is comprised of the areas of Wellingborough, Corby, East Northants, and Kettering.

## EOI Timetable

* 1. Key indicative dates are detailed below

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| --- | --- |
| **ACTIVITY** | **Time and date** |
| **PUBLISH EOI** | Wednesday 3rd August 2022 |
| **DEADLINE FOR SUBMMISSIONS OF EOI** | Midday 12pm Friday 19th August 2022 |

* 1. Please read this document and if you feel that your organisation is able to contribute to this exercise please prepare an Expression of Interest and return, via email to [procurement@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:procurement@northnorthants.gov.uk) by **Midday 12pm Friday 19th August 2022.** The EOI should cover, as a minimum the criteria set out below.
  2. Potential responders will not be prejudiced in any future procurement processes by either responding or not responding to this EOI.

# Section 2: Minimum Requirements

## Our Requirements

* 1. Whilst the outcomes of this provision are still to be confirmed they are likely to include below and others

**Reach of priority groups**

Bids will be assessed on the degree to which they meet the exposure and access for the key target groups as identified:

* Left behind communities
* Prisoners/ offenders
* Single parents
* New populations
* Looked after children (post 19)

The Council will consider how organisations can demonstrate how the courses will support the most disadvantaged people to access the skills they need. The Council will be looking for organisation who can demonstrate projects on reaching those furthest from the labour market or within isolated/disaffected communities. Information on volume of learners projected to be engaged will be considered and projects that demonstrate the best value for money, in terms of volume of learners balanced with priority groups, scoring highly.

**Innovative Delivery model**

The Council will consider how organisation are able to clearly demonstrate courses that are designed to increase confidence for those that are needing support to access the first steps towards formal qualifications. Projects will also be graded on how the delivery model differs from that of the formal training options already on offer and, additionally, how it would support progression into these courses for those in need.

Projects where innovative approaches to delivery focus on motivation and engagement of learners demonstrating how the skills are embedded into more accessible subjects and/or activities will be graded highly.

**Added value**

The Council will consider how the organisation demonstrates that a positive impact on the individual or family wellbeing is evident. The Council will also consider where it can be demonstrated how the courses will support learners to access formal qualifications and/or where working with employers can increase the skills of the workforce allowing for greater progression within the labour market.

The council is looking for projects that demonstrate added value to traditional numeracy development for a range of purposes (e.g., civic, digital, financial, health and workplace numeracy). The development of literacy and digital skills within the delivery will also demonstrate good added value.

# Section 3: Supporting information

Please note you do not need to resize the table; it will automatically adjust to fit your response.

## Section A: Organisation and Contact Details

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| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| Name of your organisation |  |
| Registered office (if applicable) |  |
| Trading address (if different from office) |  |
| Number of employees (FTE) to ascertain SME status. For larger organisations this should be the total FTE |  |
| Annual Turnover in the last full year prior to Covid – include value for consortium/joint ventures/partnerships where proposed |  |
| Name of person whom any queries relating to this questionnaire should be addressed |  |
| Telephone Number(s) |  |
| Email |  |
| Address if different to above |  |

## Section B: Questions

Please note: you do not need to resize the table; it will automatically adjust to fit your response.

Taking account of the priorities outlined in this document, which groups/themes do you feel you would be able to deliver against. Please tick all that apply:

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| --- | --- |
| * Activities to increase confidence with numbers for those in left behind communities needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications |  |
| * Activities designed to help people use numeracy for personal wellbeing such as managing money, debt management, numbers relating to health |  |
| * Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace with employers committing to offer career progression conversations for those achieving a qualification / completing a course |  |
| * 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 |  |
| * New intensive and flexible numeracy courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification |  |
| * Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression |  |
| * Numeracy courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence |  |
| * Numeracy courses aimed at those aged 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system |  |
| * Innovative experiential numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners |  |
| * Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses |  |
| * Activities maximising engagement from single parents |  |
| * Activities targeting new populations |  |
| * Innovative activities that harness digital opportunities |  |

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| 1. If you feel you could offer an intervention not listed above which aligns with NNC's priorities, please provide a brief explanation of the nature of the intervention and a clear rationale as to why the intervention would be beneficial below (maximum 200 words). |
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| 1. Please provide a short description of the main activities within your proposal, including a reference to how this may align with the values of the Multiply bid, the national Multiply guidance and/or any local skills agendas (maximum 400 words). |
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| 1. How does your proposal add value to the current provision offered through existing funding streams, such as Adult Education Budget (AEB), explaining how it will not duplicate or displace this? (maximum 200 words) |
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| 1. Please provide a brief explanation of how you would engage learners and/or employers onto your programme, in line with the interventions you have selected and the priority groups outlined above (maximum 200 words). |
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| 1. In addition to the stated priority groups, do you feel there are other target groups who would benefit from this programme? If yes, please provide a brief explanation below, including any evidence you have to support this (maximum 200 words). |
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1. Please specify where your proposed delivery would take place across the areas (based on previous council boundaries) in the North Northamptonshire Council area. Please tick all that apply:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Wellingborough area |  |  |
| Kettering area |  |  |
| Corby area |  |  |
| Oundle area |  |  |

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| 1. Do you intend on submitting an application to West Northamptonshire Council? If yes, please explain how the programmes will complement one another and how you will approach cross-border delivery (maximum 100 words). |
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| 1. What outcomes and outputs would you expect to see from your interventions, such as increased participation in maths qualifications from certain community groups or improved labour market outcomes? How will you measure distance travelled if you are not delivering accredited qualifications? (maximum 200 words) |
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| 1. Please outline how your proposals will contribute to sustainability, and carbon reduction (maximum 100 words) |
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| 1. Please outline how you will evaluate the success of your proposals (maximum 150 words) |
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1. The Multiply programme will run over a three-year period, from October 2022 until the end of March 2025. What is the estimated start date and duration of your proposal?

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| --- | --- |
| Start date: |  |
| Project duration: |  |

1. How many beneficiaries do you expect to engage on programme across the three years:

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| --- | --- |
| Year 1 (October 2022 to March 2023): |  |
| Year 2 (April 2023 to March 2024): |  |
| Year 3 (April 2024 to March 2025): |  |

1. How much funding do you expect your programme to cost across the three years:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year 1 (October 2022 to March 2023): |  |
| Year 2 (April 2023 to March 2024): |  |
| Year 3 (April 2024 to March 2025): |  |

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| 1. Please provide a brief explanation of your experience, staffing capacity and capability to deliver your proposal including ability to mobilise at pace (maximum 200 words). |
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| 1. Please state if you are confident in making management information returns and the proposed methodology for submission e.g. returning Individualised Learner Records (ILRs) to the DfE, capturing and returning of local delivery data to NNC through internal systems, etc. (maximum 150 words). |
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| 1. Do you expect to work in collaboration with other partners as part of your proposal (either for delivery or evaluation)? If yes, please provide further details below, including who you expect to be the accountable body for your delivery (maximum 150 words). |
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