

North Yorkshire Council

10 June 2024 – Decision, Assistant Director - Resources

Request to Proceed with Reaching Communities Stage One Application – Pomoc Project

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Local Engagement

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval from the Assistant Director- Resources following consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member for Corporate Services to authorise submission of an application of grant funding in the amount of approximately £500,000.

Commented [MH1]: @Matthew Joseph do you want to say " up to" here thereby giving more scope?

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Authorisation is requested to enable the Council to submit a Stage One (Expression of Interest) application to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Programme. At this early stage it is anticipated that the approximate total value of the application will be up to £500,000. A period of intense community engagement will take place with Migrant Residents over the coming months that will further develop the project in line with community aspirations. A more accurate total value will be ascertained as this engagement process is completed. Should a Stage One (Expression of interest) be successful the funder will allow up to six months for the development and submission of a full Stage Two application.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Pomoc – Access to Services for Eastern Europeans is a Council-led project that addresses identified inequalities in access to Public and Voluntary Sector services experienced by Eastern European Economic Migrants living in the former Scarborough Borough and Ryedale District. The project also delivers an extensive programme of community engagement and development designed to increase the representation and capacity of Eastern European Migrant Communities enabling them to play a fuller, more active part in civic and community life.

Pomoc, the Polish word for help and translatable into most Slavic-based Eastern European languages, emerged through joint research conducted by Scarborough Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council in 2019 that identified three major barriers experienced by Eastern European Migrants in accessing services; language, lack of knowledge and understanding of 'the system' and mistrust. Commissioned to voluntary sector partners to deliver and embrace the principle of employing project workers with identifiable links and background into Eastern European Communities (including being fluent in at least one major Eastern European language), the project served to break down these barriers.

As lead partner Scarborough Borough Council administered the budget for the project which was sourced primarily through SBC, NYCC and other public sector financial contributions. North Yorkshire Citizens Advice and Law Centre were procured to deliver the project, initially on a pilot basis (July 2020 – December 2021) and subsequently as a full project (January 2022 – present). Internal evaluation of the project, including a social value assessment,

OFFICIAL

identified key achievements and outcomes of the project and recognised the value of its approach in engaging with and developing Migrant Communities. As such Pomoc is identified as a key legacy project of LGR and integral to the ongoing development of the Migration Programmes Team and the Council's Localities Service.

The success of Pomoc has led to a strategic desire from the Council to build on its successes and approach and 'roll out' the project to other communities across the geography of North Yorkshire and to other Migrant Communities for example refugees / asylum seekers, foreign military communities based in Catterick Garrison. Bridging funding is currently in place through the Council's localities to enable the continuation of the current project until the end of the Calendar Year and ensure that valuable momentum is not lost however external grant funding will be required to continue and extend the project from 2025 onwards.

4.0 DETAILED PRESENTATION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE

4.1 Conversations with grants officers at the National Lottery have identified a desire from the funders to ensure that they are supporting more projects that target underrepresented and minority groups. Moreover, grants officers from the Lottery have specifically approached the Council with a view to encouraging the Council to submit an application. This is unprecedented within the context of Council-led community projects in North Yorkshire. Whilst obviously no guarantees can be given at this early stage that a North Yorkshire-wide Pomoc project would be funded, this is an encouraging start. The Council would be failing in its duty to secure the best possible deal for residents if it failed to submit an application after receiving this support.

4.2 A Council produced report in January 2024 (The Pomoc Approach – see background papers) has outlined the evidence base and rationale for roll out of the Pomoc project to a plurality of geographies across North Yorkshire and to a wider range of migrant populations, for example, refugees and asylum seekers. Headline facts detailed in the report outline that over the past 20 years immigration into North Yorkshire from overseas has doubled from approx. 5% to approx. 10%. Overseas migration into the county is varied, some areas experience very little migration and other have been significantly changed by it. In general terms overseas migration in the south and east of the county (former Selby and Ryedale Districts and Scarborough Borough) tends to be from economic migrants, primarily from the countries of Eastern Europe who came to the UK prior to Brexit. In part this can be attributed to the prevalence of lower-cost private sector rented accommodation in the area and the availability of low and semi-skilled employment. Migration in the west and north of the county tends to be mainly from those who have arrived in the country through various refugee channels, primarily Ukrainians, Syrians and Afghans. It should also be noted that there is a significant community (10%) of the military community in Catterick Garrison that of Fijian or Nepalese Nationals. Whilst wider community development is understood to be needed

The Pomoc Approach report outlined the successes of the project in Scarborough and Ryedale to date. The total outputs of the 2020 - 2021 Pilot are detailed in the table below:

Output / outcome	Number achieved
Residents assisted in applying for Settled / Pre-Settled Status	375
Eastern European residents assisted in accessing Public / Voluntary Sector provision	500
Eastern European residents attending community cohesion activities / events	500
Volunteers recruited onto project	9

Eastern European community leaders / representatives developed	7
<i>Social value assessment - £19.78 social value returned on every £1 invested</i>	

The current, most up to date, outputs of the 2022 – present project are detailed in the table below:

Output / outcome	Number achieved
Eastern European residents assisted in accessing Public / Voluntary Sector provision (Scarborough)	1,008
Eastern European residents assisted in accessing Public / Voluntary Sector provision (Ryedale)	305
Eastern European residents attending community cohesion activities / events	500+
Volunteers recruited onto project	10
Eastern European community leaders / representatives developed	10
<i>Social value assessment - £12.57 social value returned on every £1 invested</i>	

Following internal evaluation of the project, including stated social value return on investment, the decision has been made by the Council's Head of Localities to proceed with the rollout of the project on a county basis. As such Pomoc is viewed as one of the flagship projects of the new Localities Service.

The Pomoc Approach report also identifies what provision is currently available for our various migrant communities across North Yorkshire in terms of access to services support and wider community engagement / development support. With regard to virtually all migrant communities there is an identified lack in intensive community engagement / development support. Whilst with access to services support it is noted that refugee communities arriving through various Government schemes (Homes for Ukraine, UK Settlement Scheme, ARAP, etc) are in receipt of this support through provisions and investments provided through the schemes. Access to services support is not however in place for economic migrants and asylum seekers once they have received a positive application decision. A North Yorkshire rollout of Pomoc will seek to address these gaps and to compliment a service that is already being delivered on a statutory basis.

- 4.3 Applications to the Lotteries Reaching Communities are required through a two-stage process. Stage one is a short expression of interest outlining a general overview of the project, what it hopes to achieve, how the community have shaped its development to date and a brief synopsis of how it will be delivered. Once a stage one application has been submitted a period of up to 12 weeks is triggered whilst a decision is made by the Lotteries as to whether to invite the applicant to progress to a stage two application. Should this be the case, applicants then have a further six months in which to complete the full stage two application.

In progressing the application to its current stage, officers have established a small working group of relevant Council representatives as well as voluntary sector partners to oversee the process. In preparation for a potential invitation to proceed to stage two application, officers are in the process of engaging potential delivery partners and stakeholders from across the County to establish a steering group to oversee the stage two application process and, should any application be successful, oversee the delivery of the project.

Advice from grants officers at the National Lottery has been to develop the application as a 'partnership project'. In this scenario the Council would be the lead applicant and legally accountable body for funding and contractual purposes. Delivery of the project would then be undertaken by trusted voluntary sector partners under a partnership agreement and bespoke delivery contracts in place. Conversations are ongoing with procurement officers to ascertain any legal and procurement implications that will need to be considered.

Should the current timescales not be delayed it is hoped that should a stage two application be successful that delivery of the project would commence between January and April 2025.

5.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES

- 5.1 Rationale for the original Pomoc Project emerged from a 2019 Scarborough Borough Council report (see background papers) which drew upon first hand research with frontline service providers and migrants. The Pomoc Approach (2024, see background papers) evaluated the two original Pomoc projects, including focus groups and interviews with project beneficiaries, providing the rationale for extended delivery on a countywide basis.
- 5.2 Utilising funding (£20,000) from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund the Council has recently commissioned voluntary sector partners across the County to conduct a series of 'community conversations' with migrant communities. These will help shape and inform the future direction of the project and ensure that any proposals are in line with community need and the 'lived experience' of Migrants. It is anticipated that over 100 migrants will be engaged in the process.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 This project is being designed in conjunction with trusted voluntary sector partners a cross the County. This is based and built on their experience within their communities and with consideration to the existing Pomoc Project in Scarborough and Ryedale.

The alternative approach should the decision be taken to not apply for Lottery funding, would be for Officers from the Council's Migrants Programme team to develop access to services and community development interventions utilising smaller external funding sources on a community by community basis. However, the approach outlined in this report offers a more consistent and identifiable programme of activity

7.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS

- 7.1 This project has the identified benefit of reducing potential pressures on all services and is preventative in nature ensuring migrants access the right services at the right time. These services include either internal services such as; Education, Public Health, Adult Social Care or external services such as; Primary Healthcare, Police and Housing. As the project will significantly increase and improve the engagement of migrant populations with local public and voluntary sector services this will contribute towards the Council's equalities responsibilities. The project will also contribute to reducing the risk of financial exploitation experienced by some migrant communities.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 If the bid is successful the proposed programme will be fully funded by lottery monies with no requirement for match funding. Service delivery will be managed through contracted external services and will not create an ongoing commitment beyond the funding period.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MANDATORY)

9.1 If the application is successful, acceptance of the funding may require the Council to enter into a grant agreement. Any grant agreement required to be signed will be reviewed by legal services and if any of the terms and conditions present an unacceptable risk for the Council then the grant offer would be declined.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Please enclosed background papers – Equalities Impact Assessment

11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 A comprehensive climate change assessment will be undertaken should the application progress to full stage two application.

Commented [MH2]: Mathew, are you obtaining a climate change impact assessment?

Commented [MJ3R2]: do you know where I would get one of these from?

15.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resources implications arising as a result of this report. Should the project obtain National Lottery Reaching Communities it is intended that delivery will be undertaken through contract arrangements with trusted Voluntary sector organisations.

17.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

17.1 This project will contribute towards a number of community safety objectives such as community cohesion, reduction in hate crime and support services for victims.

18.0 CONCLUSIONS

18.1 It should be noted that at this stage that it is only proposed to submit a Stage One Reaching Communities application. This is essentially only an expression of interest and will ascertain if the funders feel that the project proposal is strong enough to warrant a full Stage Two application. Should this be the case then a full and appropriate assessment of risk will be undertaken prior.

Given that this project contributes to the core delivery aims of the Council and the new Localities Service it is recommended that authority be granted for officers to pursue the application.

19.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (MANDATORY)

19.1 To ensure all appropriate permissions are obtained at this stage and enable the Council to engage with the funding application process.

20.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- i) To request approval from the Assistant Director- Resources following consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and the Executive Member

for Corporate Services to authorise the submission of an application for grant funding in the amount of up to £500,000

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- The Pomoc Approach (2024)
- Pomoc – Access to Services for Eastern European Migrants (2019)
- Equalities Impact Assessment

Assistant Chief Executive – Local Engagement
County Hall
Northallerton
12/06/2024
Report Author – Matthew Joseph, Senior Migrant Participation Officer

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT IF ANY REPORTS / APPENDICES INCLUDE SIGNATURES THESE MUST BE REMOVED / DELETED PRIOR TO SENDING REPORTS / APPENDICES TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES. Appendices should include an Equality Impact Assessment and a Climate Impact Assessment where appropriate

OFFICIAL