

Annex A: Proposal form

Local authorities are invited to put forward their proposals for bids against the Fund using the form below.

Once completed, please return to migrationfund@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Depending on the scale and complexity of the proposal we may seek additional information. If you wish to discuss, please contact the team at the above address.

Your details

Project Name	Stockton Town Centre – investing in our communities
Lead Local Authority	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Contact details of working lead	Name: Steven Hume Address: Stockton Police Station, The Square, Stockton-on-Tees TS19 1TZ Email: steven.hume@stockton.gov.uk Phone: 01642 527610
Will you be working in partnership? If so, please give details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catalyst (VCS Infrastructure organisation)• The Cornerhouse Youth Project• Northumbria University

Please indicate which theme best reflects your proposal

- English language support
- Rogue landlords initiative
- Migrant rough sleeping initiative
- Data and evidence gathering
- Service integration
- Cohesion

Other – please say _____

Please indicate below that you understand this funding cannot be used to directly support illegal or irregular migrants, including those that have been refused permission to remain

I can confirm this proposal will not directly benefit illegal migrants

What is the problem you want to address?

In no more than 750 words, describe the issue at hand and set out the available evidence to support the case. Please attach any supporting studies, reports or sources.

Stockton is a proud 'City of Sanctuary' valuing the importance of a rich and diverse community. Stockton continues to be an asylum dispersal area and also an attractive location for migrant communities. The vast majority of asylum seekers and migrants reside in our most deprived wards, predominantly Stockton Town Centre. Currently the Town Centre has the highest levels of crime and associated ASB, the highest concentration of individuals involved in serious organised crime, highest concentration of individuals with alcohol and substance misuse issues and the highest concentration of private landlords. Essentially our most vulnerable residents all reside in this area, increasing the likelihood of individuals being exploited, being drawn into crime and substance misuse and becoming victims of crime. Overall this affects community cohesion and reassurance, social mobility as well as property values all of which impact on future growth of the community, businesses and services.

Within the Index of Multiple Deprivation Stockton Town Centre Ward is ranked 88th out of 326 local authorities nationally; whereas five years ago it was ranked 137th. The decrease in ranking is reflective in a decline in the Stockton Town Centre ward area over the last five years. The council has been proactive in recognising and trying to develop and grow the Stockton Town Centre Ward to improve quality of life, reduce crime and the fear of for residents. During January 2014 to December 2016 30% of all Stockton's crime (out of 26 wards) occurred within the two Wards mentioned within this application. In summary these two wards account for 34% of theft and handling, 28% of violence against the person, 22% of criminal damage, and 26% police reported ASB for the whole borough.

However, this perfect storm increases the attraction to the area of rogue landlords and businesses and could seriously affect the future growth and development of our high street, service provision and leisure opportunities moving forward. In August 2016 we had a 7.7% unemployment rate worse than the national average rate (1.3%) and Tees Valley (3%) rate. When looking at the postcode of TS18 (predominantly Stockton Town Centre ward) it contains the least expensive properties within the whole Borough.

This application will focus on key areas for achievement in specified areas of the Stockton Town Centre ward. We already know that the highest concentration of asylum seekers and migrants live within the selected wards. One particular street, which is a main gateway to the Town Centre contain some of our most vulnerable residents within houses predominantly owned by private landlords.

What we currently know is that within Stockton Town Centre of the estimated 3,678 dwellings, 846 are

privately rented, accounting for 23% of the households in the area. Within Parkfield and Oxbridge of the estimated 3,791 dwellings, 1,137 are privately rented (30% of dwellings in this area). Stockton Town Centre has 169 known HMO properties with only 17 that are licensed. By excluding student flats in multiple occupation, this area has a total of 77 HMOs (17 licensed). Parkfield and Oxbridge ward has 83 known HMOs (27 are licensed). However, this is an inaccurate record of the buildings using the definition of a HMO or of the number of self-contained flats. There are numerous types of these properties within the area, with 20 buildings in multiple occupations in Hartington Road.

However within these two wards there are a number of buildings that provide multiple units of accommodation but do not fall within the HMO definition. In particular Hartington Road, which is home to 20 buildings in multiple occupation.

Through targeting irresponsible landlords we will improve the standard of living conditions for identified families and enable the Council to take necessary enforcement action. This proactive approach will target all identified HMO's and rogue landlords in these areas.

All aspects of this project will compliment and assist to improve quality of life, community cohesion, improve access to available support and enforcement services; to address the vulnerabilities that asylum seekers and migrants face when moving into such a potential problematic area.

Schools in this area have high numbers of economic migrants, including asylum seekers. Many with little or no English; gaps in education; limited or no literacy skills. Children arrive experiencing not only culture shock, but trauma as a result of their previous experiences. This leave schools to respond to unpredictable, complicated challenges, vulnerable groups, who have interconnected social (including language demands) and economic difficulties. All Central Stockton schools have over nine languages spoken, two of these primaries have 21 languages spoken, with speaking English as an additional language, (69% EAL and 65.8% EAL in two schools), with up to 1,000 EAL children. Evidence would suggest that schools have limited quality specialist EAL training, options for all staff; development opportunities for EAL for school staff are non-accredited. This has a significant impact on the capacity of staff and impacts on the level of provision and support provided to established communities.

How are you proposing to tackle the problem?

Please outline in no more than 750 words how you would use the funding to address the problem outlined above.

This proposal is made up of a number of specific projects aimed at addressing the immediate issues:

Increased Community ESOL Provision and Support

Stockton Borough Council (SBC) currently spends in the region of £25K per year on direct translations costs to support residents. Providing enhanced ESOL opportunities within the community would reduce interpretation and translation costs.

This project would commence in the Summer Term of 2017 with an initial 10 week programme that will be developed and delivered in partnership with Stockton Learning and Skills Service. This service will be delivered from a location within Stockton Town Centre that enables open access to those living locally and for whom it has been designed for to attend and to have the added benefit of enhancing community engagement. The initial programme will be followed by a 36 week

programme within the following two financial years that will develop skills and knowledge around speaking and listening.

The project proposal will run over a two year cycle that will directly look to engage an identified cohort of people living within the Stockton Town Centre Community. It is anticipated that this project will evolve over time to generate community champions within these specified communities to encourage delivery and community cohesion outside of the educational settings with any existing and new families coming through, reducing the burden on established services.

Language support in schools

In relation to support in schools it is proposed that funding be used to develop a pilot project in conjunction with the University of Northumbria which will provide additional training and support to existing teaching assistants in order to support EAL children in the classroom, reducing the burden on teaching staff and increasing the contact time with the established children in the classroom.

This would be a new pilot programme designed specifically to support children within an education setting. It is envisaged that once established this programme could be adapted for use within a wider scope of settings in the future. Subject to completion there is the potential to share best practice which would assist other areas facing similar issues.

Work to tackle irresponsible landlords

Stockton Town Centre has one of the largest concentration of private landlords and we regularly experience a number of issues including poor housing conditions and limited vetting and checking of problematic tenants. It is proposed that as part of this project brief we will establish the scale and diversity of migrants choosing to live in Stockton with identified locations and conditions of the housing occupied. Little is known about the migrant population living in Stockton and anecdotal evidence suggests that this population are unlikely to seek assistance to deal with poor housing conditions and are most susceptible to occupying homes let by rogue landlords. Through identifying the numbers of migrants and the places they choose to live we can proactively engage with migrants, investigate and where necessary take action to address poor housing conditions and unscrupulous landlords. Currently we have one Private Sector Housing officer for the whole borough. Funding would provide a dedicated officer to work in the town centre area to work to deal with the challenges faced.

Part of this approach will look at the establishment of a 'Driving up Standards' approach within the specified areas targeting the high numbers of private rented homes and HMOs. This approach will allow the officer to proactively target a broader range of properties and landlords to continue the Council's ambition to improve standards within the private rented sector as well as reduce the appeal of the area for unscrupulous landlords. Additional focus will allow the use of wider tenancy enforcement powers to deal with problem landlords to support a move towards a Selective Licensing approach to the area in the future

As part of this housing offer there will be an opportunity to further develop and improve housing pathways for asylum seekers granted leave to remain. A key frustration for the Council's housing service is the lack of notice received to advise when a decision to give an asylum seeker or family is made. This places increased pressure on the service which impacts on the level of service which can be provided to the established community.

Youth engagement and inclusion

There is a need to further support youth involvement and inclusion among the established community and asylum seeker, refugee and migrant communities. This increases community confidence and involvement, builds confidence and self-esteem as well as reduces the risk of individuals being victims of hate crime or being drawn into ASB and other exploitative activities. It is proposed that funding would be used to make use of existing community resources to provide a programme of diversionary activities throughout the year to complement existing activity based around themes such as sport, culture and art.

How does the proposal benefit the established resident community?

Describe in no more than 750 words how the proposal will help benefit the established resident community.

In principle this funding bid will build on the work of the North East Migration Partnership utilising the findings from the Tees Wide Approach which is utilising resources to map diverse communities in a more effective way, any additional resources will be targeted in the right areas in the right way. It is expected that this mapping exercise will provide better insight into the communities of interest within the Tees Valley area and will highlight areas of vulnerability and wider concern within Stockton.

The application will support residents and supports the Councils key motivating policy principles:-

- Protecting the vulnerable
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Developing strong and healthy communities
- Creating economic prosperity across the Borough

This application seeks to directly support and assist residents through the following objectives:-

Increased Community ESOL Provision and Support

This would positively impact on the community and improve the potential for residents and families to better integrate within their community and beyond within the Borough. This could become the conduit to increased confidence to open up about the issues that these communities face. This will increase the information knowledge and awareness of services for asylum seekers and migrants to report with a view to gaining the right direction for further support and assistance. This aspect would build on developing cohesive and sustainable communities that will foster friendship groups and a real sense of belonging as the project develops.

Language support in schools

Many members of our established community in Central Stockton have English as an Additional Language. Providing enhanced EAL provision in our schools will enhance mainstream provision and curriculum access for those bilingual British born children who enter our education system via nursery; this will impact positively upon our school provision, allowing for an improved, targeted response, where newly arrived children arrive in Stockton Schools. This in turn, will ensure that children from our

established communities have an enhanced experience, where the impact of new arrivals with EAL has been mitigated.

This innovative approach will allow us to develop centres of excellence in Stockton Schools who will be able to share best practice with other schools across Stockton, the Tees Valley and the possibility of this being rolled out regionally will benefit schools and resident communities across the wider northern eastern region.

It will strengthen community cohesion, since staff will engage more with migrant communities, establishing a more deliberate approach to engagement with migrant families. This will support enhanced intra community engagement within our schools. In many central Stockton Schools, there are children within the established community, who experience speech and language difficulties. Many of the EAL strategies which will be shared during this PPA, will also support children who have speech and language difficulties. These strategies have a cross curricular benefit.

Work to tackle irresponsible landlords

Improved housing conditions will be seen with respective property inspections taking place to identify and inform residents of effective and expected property standards. This will have a positive impact on the standards of housing providing a nicer area for the residents living within. Less fly tipping, dog fouling and a reduced level of crime and ASB will contribute to feelings of reassurance and safety in the targeted areas. Residents will also have the opportunity to start to recognise good living and housing standards and this can be taken forward when they potentially move. Through better management and enforcement of landlords, property standards will increase and there will be a wider expectation of acceptable practice in Stockton.

Youth engagement and inclusion

By using effective diversionary activities residents will become better integrated into our communities through inclusion in sport, and art activities. Developing a stronger and more cohesive and socially inclusive community for all residents alike. Providing an understanding of cultural difference, developing respect for, and enabling stronger neighbourhoods to develop. This also impacts on levels of crime and ASB, contributing to a reduction of, will increased feelings of safety and reassurance for residents within this area.

How much funding are you requesting?

Please detail the funding you are requesting and your projection of expenditure (if more than 1 year) Bids will usually be limited to a maximum of one or two years.

Financial Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	TOTAL
ESOL	£22,160	£49,808	£49,808	£121,776
Language Support	£12,132	£66,182	£66,182	£144,496
Tackling Landlords	£13,200	£52,750	£52,750	£118,700
Youth Engagement	£10K	£20K	£20K	£50,000
Total	£57,492	£188,740	£188,740	£434,972

Please provide any additional comments on the funding sought

Funding applied for in 2016/17 will be used to set up innovative schemes ready for the delivery costs in 2017-2019. Excluding Youth Engagement where activities can commence within this financial year where required.

Funding detail

<p>Have you received central Government Funding to tackle similar issues before?</p> <p>If yes, please give details.</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Would this funding supplement any mainstream or other funding?</p> <p>If yes, please give details.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Is it planned for any other funding to support this project?</p> <p>If yes, please explain</p>	<p>No</p>

Success criteria

Please set out in no more than 750 words your initial thoughts on how the project might be evaluated, what success criteria may be used and how these will be measured.

A full action plan of delivery with clear objectives, identified leads and timescales of completion / monitoring would be developed to support this application moving forward. This action plan would reflect the vision of all aspects of this application that would bring together an improved area, with improved life experiences for all communities involved.

This is only a short summary of some of the success that can be identified within the infancy of its development. The action plan will take a flexible approach that will become adaptable to both the needs of the residents and businesses it is working on behalf of.

Working alongside this action plan will be a communication and engagement strand that will not only improve communication and support for families, but may also contribute to a reduction in the stress levels within households and enable families to support each other with their day to day activities promoting more family orientated learning and engagement. In the long term this will have an impact on the communication and engagement levels between our support and enforcement services. This will have a positive impact on the demand for outside service support which should reduce the burden on services when the time is right. This type of outcome is more difficult to determine through formal monitoring and will be captured through contact with services and general feeling of safety and improvement that individuals feel as the project develops.

Increased Community ESOL Provision and Support

This approach will reduce the resource burden on interpreters as well as improve overall community cohesion. Success will be measured through numbers of people that have gone through the programme and their perception of its success as well as their own personal confidence through end of course evaluations.

Language support in schools

Schools will carry out Stockton's Ethnic Minority and New Arrival audit of provision before their staff engages with this professional development. A separate action plan will be developed to identify key areas for development to be advanced over the year, whilst the Teaching Assistant is engaged on the PPA. Clear and aspirational success criteria for individual and whole school development will be explicit in each of the action plans. A post course review that will benchmark progress and impact against this success criteria will be undertaken.

There will be ongoing opportunities for feedback from all students participating on the PPA in order to share learning and further enhance the quality of the course, and to ensure a flexible approach to delivery that will be suitable for the requirements of all.

Additional measures which identify staff destination (continued education or work place) post course will be captured to further support the analysis and evaluation of course impact.

Engagement with other schools in Stockton and the Region will be recorded, to establish spread of dissemination and the ways in which best practice can be shared.

Once this has been developed, tried and tested, this will enable us to develop centres of excellence within Stockton Schools who will be able to share best practice with other schools across Stockton, the Tees Valley and the possibility of this being rolled out regionally will benefit schools and communities across the wider northern eastern region. This includes an overall aim to secure sustainable impact for our pupils and young people, families throughout our region. Numbers going through this system will be monitored and measured in a standardised way.

Work to tackle irresponsible landlords

Initially we would need to establish the types and number of properties within the area, along with establishing ownership details. We would then need to assess conditions and determine the appropriate action to deal with all houses and HMOs that are recognised as being of a poor standard. The reduction and removal of Category 1 and 2 hazards, the number of notices and orders issued and complied with along with other enforcement measures, the number of properties improved and actions by other partners will be monitored. Success over the long term would see property conditions improved, empty homes returned to use, an increase in the value of properties in the area and the driving out of rogue landlords.

Youth engagement and inclusion

This part of the project would be monitored through the types and numbers of sessions delivered. Again we would look to take a flexible approach to ensure that sessions are designed and developed for the needs of the young people involved. There would be a driving focus to integrate communities and improve social and community cohesion as a whole.

