

## **SPECIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING AGREEMENT 2013-14**

### **PROMOTING TRUST, UNDERSTANDING AND CO-OPERATION AMONG FAITH COMMUNITIES**

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| <b>A. Activities to be commissioned</b>  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To promote trust, understanding and co-operation among faith communities and organisations in Leicester, working collaboratively with Leicester City Council and other strategic groups and partnerships to achieve this.</li><li>2. To disseminate accurate information about the beliefs and practices of the diverse faith communities of Leicester, working collaboratively with Leicester City Council and other strategic groups and partnerships to achieve this.</li></ol>  |
| <b>B. Strategic aim</b>  |
| Leicester City Council is committed to integration and cohesion and building a city where there is shared common purpose and civic responsibility, and to supporting and facilitating a vibrant Voluntary and Community Sector in Leicester.   |
| <b>C. Outcomes</b>   |
| Leicester Council of Faiths (LCoF) will deliver the following outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Offer a collective voice for the city's faith organisations and the communities they serve, ensuring that issues of religion or belief are given appropriate consideration within the policies and operations of the City Council (and other strategic groups and partnerships), leading to improved design, delivery and monitoring of services.</li><li>2. Provide a central point of contact for the City Council (and other strategic groups and partnerships) on behalf of the city's faith organisations and the communities they serve, ensuring that issues of religion or belief can be addressed in an effective, sensitive and timely manner.</li><li>3. Assist faith communities and organisations in Leicester more fully to engage in the life of the city in general.</li><li>4. Ensure dissemination of accurate knowledge of the beliefs and practices of the city's diverse faith communities and organisations, in order to increase trust, understanding and cooperation among them (and between the city's diverse faith communities and the general public in Leicester).</li></ol> |
| <b>D. Why this is important</b>  |
| According to the 2011 Census, the current population of Leicester is 329,000, an increase of 17% since the previous Census in 2001, placing Leicester amongst the top local and unitary authorities with the highest growth in population in England and   |

Wales. The 2011 Census shows that 32% of people in Leicester identify as Christian, 19% Muslim, 15% Hindu, 4% Sikh, 0.4% Buddhist and 0.1% Jewish, while 23% identify themselves as having no religion. The increase in recent years of the Somali population, along with the growing number of asylum seekers and other new arrivals, as well as the considerable number of established and growing black-led Christian churches, and the increase in number of Christians from recent EU accession states who are Roman Catholic, has had a discernible effect on the demographic makeup of the city, particularly in terms of religion or belief.

Leicester city is rightly celebrated for the peaceful co-existence of a variety of beliefs, cultures, heritages, practices and traditions. Religion or belief matters in Leicester as a strong source of cultural identity amongst many of our communities. This is particularly the case with many of our ethnic minorities, while amongst our white British communities a more secular lifestyle appears increasingly common. This is confirmed by the Home Office's Citizenship surveys where the significance of religion to self-identity amongst those of minority faiths is very high, compared to that amongst the white population.

Given the increasing prominence and recognition of religion or belief in the public domain, the City Council is looking at using lines of communication between and within faith communities and organisations to improve design, delivery and monitoring of services.

The activity commissioned from LCoF in this specification will help ensure that the positive contribution to the city made by communities and organisations of religion or belief is optimised, by providing a clear and representative voice, informing decision-making and providing a recognised point of contact when the City Council has to engage with faith communities and organisations in Leicester.

## **E. Scope of the service**

The service commissioned from LCoF should reflect all manifestations of religion or belief across the city (as far as possible) as well as specific denominations and sects (where practicable).

In providing this service, LCoF should engage with organisations representing Secular Humanism (as a Philosophical Belief, defined within the terms of the Equality Act 2010) and make efforts to work constructively with people who do not identify with any religion or belief.

**Definition:** FAITH (Religion or Belief)

*Religion means any religion or a lack of religion*

*Belief means any religious or philosophical belief, or a lack of belief*

*Religion has the meaning usually given to it but belief includes religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief (e.g. Atheism). Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.*

## **F. Representation – objectives**

- To encourage trust, understanding and co-operation among faith communities and organisations in Leicester, thereby seeking a mandate to represent them (in ways and for purposes described in Section C above).

- To act as the collective public voice for faith organisations and the communities they serve in Leicester (See Section E above).
- To have a Board that is representative of the communities served.
- To represent the collective position of faith organisations and the communities they serve in working with the City Council as well as (for example) civic authorities, service providers, educational institutions and local media.
- In representing the views of faith organisations, LCoF should ensure (as far as possible and practicable) that the views of all sectors of those communities are reflected and taken into account (e.g. those embodying the Protected Characteristics defined in the Equality Act 2010, including, but not limited to: disabled people; ethnic and racial minorities; people identifying as LGBT; women; and young people).
- To act as an initial point of contact when issues arise that could affect the cohesiveness of Leicester's communities, and to work constructively to identify solutions and maintain engagement / channels of communication with faith communities and organisations regarding such issues.
- To represent the collective interests of religion or belief in Leicester by attending and participating in meetings (and supporting the work of) key strategic partnerships where appropriate and relevant (e.g. SACRE).
- To undertake work as appropriate to support the integration of faith organisations and communities into the collective life of the city of Leicester, including partnership work with a range of relevant Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, enlisting the support of those organisations and the communities of interest that they represent for (and their involvement in) appropriate interfaith work
- To organise and/or support appropriate public inter faith activities for the benefit of faith communities and organisations in Leicester and the people of the city in general.

| <b>G. Performance measures</b>  |   |   |
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| <b>Outcomes</b>   | <b>Impact</b>   | <b>Evidence<sup>1</sup></b>   |
| 1. A collective voice for the city's faith organisations and the communities they serve, ensuring that issues of religion or belief are given appropriate consideration within the policies and | LCoF represents the collective position of faith organisations and the communities they serve in Leicester. | LCoF can demonstrate it has mechanisms in place to consult and engage as wide a range of faith communities in Leicester as possible (see section E above).<br><br>Evidence of inclusiveness of engagement and debate.<br><br>Feedback from groups and |

<sup>1</sup> Such evidence, in the form of correspondence; agendas / minutes / notes / reports of meetings; social media postings (including, but not limited to Blogger, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube), should be available online or upon request at Welcome Centre, Pilgrim House.

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| <p>operations of the City Council (and other strategic groups and partnerships), leading to improved design, delivery and monitoring of services.</p>   |   | <p>institutions (on LCoF's database), including an annual survey that measures performance against the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At least 60% of groups responding feel "well informed" or "very well informed" by the work of LCoF.</li> <li>- At least 60% of groups responding feel effectively supported by LCoF.</li> <li>- At least 60% of groups responding report they feel better engaged and listened to by policy makers.</li> </ul> |
|   | <p>LCoF's input is influencing planning, activity and decision-making, leading to recognisable improvement in design, delivery and monitoring of services.</p>  | <p>Feedback from service areas.<br/>Feedback from City Council and key partners.</p>  |
| <p>2. A central point of contact for the City Council (and other strategic groups and partnerships) on behalf of the city's faith organisations and the communities they serve, ensuring that issues of religion or belief can be addressed in an effective, sensitive and timely manner.</p> | <p>Faith groups and organisations are effectively represented and constructively engaged in issues that arise within the city (e.g. visits from EDL), so that potentially negative impacts on cohesiveness are managed.</p> | <p>Evidence of engagement with City Council and other strategic groups and/or partnerships.</p>   |
| <p>3. Faith communities and organisations in Leicester are assisted to engage</p>   | <p>Faith communities and organisations in Leicester are more closely integrated into</p>  | <p>Evidence of work undertaken to consult, engage and involve faith communities and organisations.</p>  |

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| more fully in the life of the city in general.  | the life of the city in general.   | Feedback from faith communities and organisations. |
| 4. Dissemination of accurate knowledge of the beliefs and practices of the city's diverse faith communities and organisations, in order to increase trust, understanding and cooperation among them (and between the city's diverse faith communities and the general public in Leicester). | Narrative report describing activities, events and occasions; lists of faith communities and organisations engaged, involved and/or represented; press cuttings; postings on social media. |  |
| 5. Overall  | Annual narrative report on the achievements of the provider against the specification's strategic aims, outcomes, impact and areas for improvement.  |  |

**H. Partnership arrangements**

In furtherance of these strategic aims, LCoF shall work with ethnic and faith-based Voluntary and Community Sector organisations (including, but not limited to: African Caribbean Citizens Forum; British Hindu Voice; Christians Aware; Federation of Muslim Federation Organisations; Gujarati Hindu Association; Hindu Network Leicester & Leicestershire; Indian Workers Association; Leicestershire Sikh Alliance; Sikh Cultural and Welfare Society; Somali Development Services; The Race Equality Centre). This should, where appropriate and relevant, be extended to include other Voluntary and Community Organisations which represent communities of interest identified with Protected Characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010 (including, but not limited to: Leicester LGBT Centre; LeicestHERday Trust; Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living; and Voluntary Action LeicesterShire).

**I. Contract price and payment terms**

The total contract price over 15 months shall not exceed **£31,250**

Payments will be made quarterly in advance, upon receipt of an invoice and upon satisfactory evidence of service delivery.

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| <b>J. Timescales / Period of contract</b>  |
| The period of this contract is 15 months commencing 1 January 2013 and ending 31 March 2014.   |
| <b>K. Monitoring and recording arrangements</b>  |
| <p>You will need to have the necessary systems in place to enable you to capture detailed information relating to the progress of the activity as required under Section G above.</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer for this contract will discuss with you at an initial meeting what forms you will be required to complete, and agree with you the type of information and evidence that will be required each quarter.</p> |
| <b>L. Quality standards</b>  |
| <p>LCoF should be signed up to the Leicester Compact and support and promote its principles.</p> <p>LCoF should have (or can evidence that it is working towards) PQASSO accredited quality standards or an equivalent quality standard.</p>   |
| <b>M. Commissioning Officer Details</b>  |
| <p>Miranda Cannon<br/>Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance<br/><a href="mailto:miranda.cannon@leicester.gov.uk">miranda.cannon@leicester.gov.uk</a><br/>Internal phone: 29 6079<br/>External phone: 0116 252 6079<br/>Mobile:</p>   |