

REPORT TITLE: UKRAINIAN RESETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

25 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Paula Ferguson, Cabinet Member for Community & Housing

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report provides an indicative spending plan for the funding allocated to the council by Hampshire County Council under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

This plan covers two new areas of support work to help Ukrainian families and individuals to move into their own accommodation and settle into their local communities. The spending plan is for the period 2023 to 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the Homes for Ukraine Move-on Accommodation & Community Integration – proposed spending plan 2023 to 2025 as set out in Table 4.
2. Delegate authority to the Service Lead Communities and Wellbeing and Service Lead for Strategic Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Housing to amend the 2023-2025 spending plan as needs and requirements of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme change.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 The current and proposed activity supported by the funding from the Homes for Ukraine scheme aligns directly with achieving four of the council's priority outcomes; Homes for All, Vibrant Local Economy, Living Well and Your Services Your Voice.
- 1.2 Homes for All
- 1.3 A key aspect of this proposed Ukrainian resettlement and integration programme is to ensure, as far as possible, that Ukrainian guests are able to access longer term suitable accommodation and to live more independently. Working directly and in partnership with landlords and other providers to access accommodation and with the voluntary sector to help our Ukrainian guests integrate into the community will help to ensure the district has diverse, healthy and cohesive communities.
- 1.4 Vibrant Local Economy
- 1.5 A key aspect of helping Ukrainian guests to live independently will be to enable them to access opportunities for high quality, well-paid employment across the district. This will also include enabling self-employment and business start-ups.
- 1.6 Living Well
- 1.7 We want all residents to live healthy and fulfilled lives. To do this, activities should focus on the most disadvantaged areas, communities and groups, supporting a greater diversity of residents. The provision of good quality housing, employment and volunteering, community connections and a sense of belonging are linked to and have a positive impact on wellbeing and health inequalities.
- 1.8 Your Services, Your Voice
- 1.9 To ensure all residents have the opportunity to make their voice heard, there needs to be a focus on accessibility and inclusiveness especially in decision-making and so that services can be used by all. Engaging with and enabling Ukrainian guests to co-design the integration and independent living support and activities will be fundamental to successful outcomes for individuals and communities. Enabling a diversity of voices to be heard supports the council Listening Better priority.

### 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities launched the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) scheme on 14 March 2022 to provide support to

those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Under the scheme individual hosts offered homes or a spare room rent-free to Ukrainian guests for as long as they are able, with a minimum stay of six months. In return, they received a £350 payment per month. The government further announced financial support of £10,500 per guest and Hampshire County Council (HCC) (as the grant administering body) allocated to districts £1,680 per guest for initial set up and emergency accommodation costs as follows:

- a) £105 per guest for initial arrival activity, local communication and welcome packs etc.
  - b) £1,575 per guest for voluntary sector coordination, support events, translation. Single Point of Contact for support needs. Support during early weeks/months. Specialist Case workers including housing and homelessness, support for re-matching and escalated housing issues.
- 2.2 HCC advised an initial instalment for Winchester district of £740,880, based on an anticipated 441 Ukrainian guests. The spending plans for the delivery of housing support and community support activity costing £727,000 were approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 22 June 2022 (CAB3340) and are summarised in tables 1 and 2 (see sections 11.3 and 11.4). At the end of November 2022 the district had welcomed 375 Ukrainian guests (215 families) and received a proportion of its funding, with payments to date from Hampshire County Council totalling £331,792 (as of 7 December 2022).
- 2.3 This will increase as our number of refugees grows, with the total estimated funding allocation for this work rising to £950,880, based on a total estimated number of 566 expected guests.
- 2.4 Through Hampshire County Council, a second tranche of funding is now being allocated for new areas of activity to support Ukrainian guests. The total estimated allocation to Winchester City Council is £839,000 and this covers two new strands of support are:
- a) £273,000 Move-on accommodation support based on £5,000 per family with an estimated need from 20% of our 273 families
  - b) £566,000 Community integration support of £1,000 per guest based on the total estimated number of guests of 566.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The proposals outlined in the report for expenditure of this grant funding will, where applicable, be in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (contracts) or are permitted under the subsidy control regime (grants). Ongoing legal support will be provided, as required, in relation to the expenditure of this grant.

### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Additional staff resources were funded from the allocation approved at the June Cabinet. This included three case officers; one Housing Options Officer (Ukrainian lead) and two 'Homes for Ukrainian Resettlement Officers', as well as a Community Liaison Officer. These are contracted until August & September 2023 and it is the intention to extend these for a further six months, funded from additional monies received for the arrival of more Ukrainians in the intervening period. These contracts will be reviewed again late in 2023.
- 4.2 The management of these staff and the current range of activities is resourced by Strategic Housing and Community Team staff. A great deal of additional resource has been volunteered across the council by those helping at the information hubs either to run them or provide access to support services. Their help and expertise has been invaluable, but cannot be sustained over a two year period as envisaged with this next stage of support.
- 4.3 Further internal staff resourcing is therefore required specifically to support the community integration strand of work. The costs of this will be met from the HFU allocation. In addition external capacity will be procured for areas of work such as outreach, facilitating co-design and community engagement and community leadership development. This will also be funded from the HFU grant allocation.
- 4.4 The Strategic Housing and Community teams will still provide staff resource to manage and participate in delivery of activities. This will involve:
- a) Commissioning services and support
  - b) Support and attending engagement events
  - c) Monitoring and reporting outcomes.

## 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Recommendations within the report have no immediate impact on council property and assets.

## 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The areas of activity in the proposed spending plan have been discussed and agreed with the Cabinet Member for Community and Housing.
- 6.2 Senior officers have met with the Ukrainian Team and are drawing up an action plan for the next 12 months. The brief has been outlined at regular meeting with members who champion the City of Sanctuary movement and representatives from the City of Sanctuary.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Providing access to local activities and support reduces the need for people to travel to central locations and supports the principle of a 15 minute community. Community engagement builds more resilient communities better

able to support themselves and work together in response to future challenges and change.

## 8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

8.1 Under s149 (1) of the Equality Act the council must have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, (and Cabinet must, as the decision maker in respect of the proposed decision, have due regard) to the need to:

- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them.
- c) Foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them.

8.2 The PSED Equality Impact Assessment is provide in Appendix 1.

## 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 The council will hold personal information regarding individual guests and hosts, which will be stored and managed in accordance with the council's policy and the results of the data impact assessment. In addition, partner voluntary and community organisations commissioned to deliver support services and engagement activities may also require the holding of individual personal data. The council's services contract between the council and the organisation includes a data protection clause setting out obligations to ensure compliance in accordance with council policy and the results of the data impact assessment.

## 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Financial Exposure</b></p> <p>Risk of not committing resources in line with spending plan.</p> <p>The programme under or overspends on the budget allocation and profile.</p> <p>HFU monies are insufficient to meet needs of hosts and guests</p>	<p>County wide Finance group and HCC keeping demand under review.</p> <p>Detailed financial performance monitoring will be built into the programme management and reporting.</p> <p>Expenditure will not be at</p>	

HFU allocations from government / Hampshire County Council are reduced or stopped.	risk.	
<b>Exposure to challenge</b> See reputation risk		
<b>Innovation</b> Traditional methods of engagement fail to secure trust and do not recognise diversity and new ways of working together	New approaches to engagement and enabling local groups and people to come together to design and agree the activities and support they want to deliver themselves will be a fundamental aspect of this work.	New approaches used and lessons learned can be replicated in other areas of work and support the council's Listening Better priority
<b>Reputation</b> Failing to adequately support the needs of HFU families/guests creates negative sentiment against the council  Additional support to a defined group of people within the community creates negative sentiment and perception of unfair treatment	Information on the scheme and the support it is providing needs to be shared widely to build understanding.  Opportunities for community events and cultural activity are aimed at fostering greater understanding and to break down prejudices.	An opportunity to offer enhanced and wider community support to the most excluded and vulnerable residents.  Opportunities to work in partnership with community and voluntary sector partners on community development/integration.
<b>Achievement of outcome</b> The interventions in the HFU spending plan are not implemented and the benefits proposed are not realised.	Additional resources will be created to ensure the plans can be implemented.	
<b>Property</b> None		
<b>Community Support</b> Stakeholders do not	Partners and stakeholders will be	Further developed approaches to

<p>participate in the delivery of interventions.</p> <p>Ukrainian guests do not engage or take up the support on offer</p>	<p>involved and informed as plans for activities and support are developed to ensure they are able to participate.</p> <p>Work to involve Ukrainian guests in the co-design of the support for community integration and independent living will help ensure the right support is on offer</p>	<p>engagement will ensure that a comprehensive cross section of stakeholders is engaged bringing forward new and different voices and opinions to further facilitate action.</p>
<p><b>Timescales</b></p> <p>Support is not provided when it is needed.</p>	<p>The high-level spending plan enables delivery to commence immediately to ensure those already in need of help can receive it.</p>	
<p><b>Project capacity</b></p> <p>Lack of council staff resources reduces capacity to deliver the projects.</p> <p>Lack of resources in partners and community leaders delays or prevents delivery of projects.</p>	<p>The council will commit additional staff resources to be funded from the HFU Community Integration grant.</p> <p>Partners and community leaders will be supported and provided with funding for additional resources if required to ensure resilience in delivery of the programme.</p>	

## 11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

### 11.1 **Background**

11.2 At the June 2022 meeting Cabinet considered the spending plans for two significant government grants; one to support the council work on homelessness prevention and the other the Homes for Ukraine scheme. In respect of the latter a spending plan for housing and community support was approved.

11.3 The approved spending plan for strategic housing support included activities set out in Table 1 to be funded from the estimated allocation at the time of £609,000.

Table 1 Homes For Ukraine Scheme – Strategic Housing approved spending plan 2022/23

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Employment of three case officers, one Housing Options Officer (Ukrainian lead) and two 'Homes for Ukrainian Resettlement Officers'	Completed Actual to date: £46,465	£120,000
Use of emergency accommodation placements – based on assumption that 80 families may be rendered homeless and need emergency accommodation for a period of six weeks	£1,372.31 spent to date Assisted 2 families	£392,000
A translation service	£3,601.67 spent to date Ongoing	£37,000
A flexible prevention fund to assist the host and Ukrainian refugee to sustain their current accommodation	£31,780.21 spent to date Assisted 17 families into alternative accommodation	£50,000
Mental health wellbeing support and training for staff	Being sourced	£10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£609,000</b>

- 11.4 In addition a proportion of the grant funding was allocated to supporting guests to integrate into Winchester's community across the district. This work is being led by the Community team and the approved spending plan for £118,000 included activities detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Home For Ukraine Community Support - approved spending plan 2022/23

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Recruit temporary Liaison Officer for the support hub – June 2022	Complete via contract with Citizen's Advice Bureau & a Casual worker contract Actual to date:	£8,000
Recruit 1 FTE Community Liaison Officer (Ukraine) on a 12 month contract	Completed Actual to date: £13,861	£45,000
Translation (materials) and interpretation costs	Completed – Welcome guides produced in English, Ukrainian and	£12,000



<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
	Russian Actual to date: £9306	
Central information /support hub x 12	Completed 10 Hubs held in Guildhall Winchester Actual to date: £3645	£7,000
Outreach hubs (in 5 locations)	Completed – Hubs held at Bishops Waltham, Alresford, Denmead, Kings Worthy, Colden Common Actual to date: £200	£7,000
Community integration and cultural district events	In progress Two guests and host culture events held, plus One combined integration event with regards to housing support and provision	£10,000
CVS voluntary sector community support work	Being sourced	£10,000
Recruit 0.6 FTE Ukraine support administration officer on a 12 month contract	Completed Actual spend to date: £4,058	£19,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£118,000</b>

11.5 The Government's original HFU scheme guidance was that from six months of the family settling with their host, the host and the Local Authority should support the family into their own accommodation if they are unable to, or do not wish to, return to Ukraine. This was later extended to 12 months after settling and amended again to two years. Ukrainian families are eligible to access public funds for three years, which means they can apply for benefits, work and apply for social housing. In recognition that guests and families are now seeking to move on from their hosts, and in order to support a move to private rented accommodation or independent living, further HFU funds have been allocated. The spending plan that was presented to Cabinet in June 2022 outlined the council's intention on how to spend the initial funding. Some of this funding remains unspent, but the funding is not constrained by the financial year and can be utilised over a three year period so it is anticipated that it will be spent in full.

#### 11.6 **Detailed proposal**

11.7 The work detailed to support Ukrainians and host families, and funded through the Homes for Ukrainians scheme, continues to be delivered by the

council's Strategic Housing and Communities teams. Indeed as people continue to arrive in the district it is important that they receive the same welcome and support as those who arrived before them. The methods used to provide this support will change over time to meet the needs in the most effective and efficient ways. In the next phase of activity this could happen through occasional outreach hubs or individual welcome/orientation sessions.

- 11.8 However the two new areas of support in the second tranche of allocated funding require a new spending plan for those specific activities. This work stream is constantly evolving and there is a need to allow for flexibility in the council's response as funding allocations, demands and circumstances change. Therefore, this report provides an indicative allocation and use of the new funds, particularly in respect of additional staff costs and activities, but this may change as the situations and need/demand changes.

Table 3. Homes for Ukraine - New Allocation of Grant Support

Scheme	Allocation based on actuals to date (Families)	Allocation based on estimated totals (Guests)	Difference Actual/Estimates
Move-on Accommodation Support Scheme	£213,000	£273,000	£60,000
Community Integration	£375,000	£566,000	£191,000
Total	£588,000	£839,000	£251,000

- 11.9 The funding allocated to these two new schemes is significant and should be used over an appropriate period to ensure the continued availability of support to families and individuals yet to arrive or in need of help. At the same time consideration is to be given to the needs of those already here and for whom funding is available now. The future spending plans will therefore extend over the next two financial years with an expenditure profile that is weighted towards next year (2023/24). This enables funds based on actual families and individual guests to be used whilst deferring to 2024/25 the estimated, and at risk, allocation should the numbers not be reached.

- 11.10 The proposed spending plan for these two new strands of support is given in Table 4. It supports the principles of providing immediate support and guidance and enhancing integration and independent living. Overall the HFU work programme in terms of support offered is based on the following themes:

- a) Securing access to longer-term housing
- b) Communication and advice
- c) Access to support services
- d) Wellbeing, peer support and social warm spaces

- e) Working towards independence and employment
- f) Cultural awareness
- g) Community integration and empowerment

**Table 4. Homes for Ukraine Move-on Accommodation & Community Integration – proposed spending plan 2023 to 2025.**

<b>Strand of Support</b> • Areas of proposed support	Year 1 2022/23 Feb-Mar 2023	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	Total
<b>Move-on Accommodation Support Scheme (Families)</b>				
<i>Number of families</i>	3	40	11	54
Incentivise landlords to house Ukrainian families e.g. • Contact and relationship building, rental deposits and advance rent	£15,000	£200,500	£60,000	£273,000
<i>Number of Guests</i>	25	250	191	566
<b>Community Integration</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing language barriers</li> <li>• Additional staff - Community team officers to stimulate and coordinate activity and contract management /monitoring.</li> <li>• Facilitating engagement with guests to co-design the integration and independent living support and activities.</li> <li>• Developing community leadership and advocates.</li> <li>• Commissioning of community outreach, support services and community development with voluntary &amp; community sector partners.</li> <li>• Employment, business start-up advice sessions.</li> <li>• Cultural events, activities and celebrations to bring people and places together.</li> <li>• Releasing creative talent.</li> <li>• Establishing / making accessible local clubs, groups and societies.</li> <li>• Making activities accessible and relevant to a multi-generational community.</li> <li>• Addressing issues of wellbeing and health.</li> </ul>	£25,000	£350,000	£191,000	£566,000

<b>Strand of Support</b>	<b>Year 1</b> 2022/23 Feb-Mar 2023	<b>Year 2</b> 2023/24	<b>Year 3</b> 2024/25	<b>Total</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas of proposed support</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaising with partners and supporting their activities</li> <li>• Helping groups to access funding to support their activities</li> </ul>				

11.11 As before there will be a joint responsibility between Strategic Housing and Communities teams for the management of fund expenditure and delivery of the support, which will be implemented in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community & Housing.

#### 11.12 **Conclusions**

11.13 It is recommended that the council accepts and uses the HFU scheme funding allocated to it by Hampshire County Council for the two strands of support it has determined as incentivising private landlords to house Ukrainian families and for community integration. Due to levels of certainty about the exact numbers requiring help and the exact nature of the help needed it is only possible, at this time, to provide a high level spending plan to indicate that the funds will be used for the purpose for which they are intended.

11.14 Therefore, it is further recommended that delegated authority been given to the Service Lead Communities and Wellbeing and Service Lead for Strategic Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community and Housing, to amend and extend the 2023-2025 spending plan as needs and requirements of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme change.

#### 12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 Do not accept the HFU funding allocation. This option is rejected as the council is not resourced to deliver the housing and community support required by Ukrainian refugee guests and families seeking to live in the district.

12.2 Delay approval of a spending plan until more detailed information can be provided. This option is rejected as there is an immediate need to provide housing and community support to the hundreds of guests and families that have already been welcomed to the district. By devising a high level plan, specific and bespoke actions can be developed in partnership with community & voluntary organisations, local communities and Ukrainians. It is not possible to predetermine the exact nature of the support wanted or needed over the next two years.

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB3340: The Homelessness Prevention Grant/Homes for Ukraine Programme – Spending Plan 2022/23, 22 June 2022

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1. PSED Assessment