

Record of operational decision

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| Decision title: | To agree a package of travel and transport initiatives to support people from the Ukraine resettling in Herefordshire through the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme. |
| Date of decision: | 30 th September 2022 |
| Decision maker: | Corporate Director Community Wellbeing |
| Authority for delegated decision: | <p>The Chief Executive's scheme of delegation SA09; Commissioning, quality assurance and contract management relating to all ages.</p> <p>The directorate scheme of delegation: Corporate Centre item number 151. Section 151 Officer to accept terms and conditions attached to any Government grants and complete grant returns.</p> |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | <p>Consultation with voluntary and community organisations has taken place as part of the development of wider commissioning and spending plans for the Homes for Ukraine programme. These include those groups already working with Ukrainians in Herefordshire.</p> <p>The proposal has been reviewed and approved through internal governance processes and at a Cabinet Briefing held on the 28th July 2022.</p> |
| Decision made: | <p>Funding is allocated to the following transport schemes to support Ukrainian guests arriving through the Homes for Ukrainian scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free bus travel for Ukrainian guests in Herefordshire for up to one year. The free bus travel scheme will be piloted in the HR9 area in order to assess demand for the service, at an estimated initial cost of £8K. If the pilot project shows good take-up from Ukrainian people, it will be extended to all Ukrainian guests under the scheme for one year. The maximum spend for this initiative is £188K. • Increase the capacity of Community Transport Providers – Herefordshire Council already commission the services of the 7 established community transport providers in Herefordshire. This additional funding will be used to support Ukrainian guests needing to get to appointments including healthcare, DWP and interviews where public transport is not available. The maximum spend for this initiative is £77K. • Free school travel for children from the Ukraine, where required. Approximately 37% of the people arriving through the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme are children and young people under the age of 18. The majority will be eligible for free school transport, placing additional demand on council budgets. The proposed spending ensures no impact on existing resources for local children and their families. The maximum spend for this initiative is £414K. |
| Reasons for decision: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme was launched on the 14th March 2022. • The scheme enables people living in the UK to offer accommodation in their own homes or property they own to |

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| | <p>individuals and families displaced from the Ukraine due to the war with Russia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To date 491 people have already arrived through the scheme. Initial indications are that approximately 37% (182) of guests are children and young people aged under 18 years old. • At least another 187 people are expected through the scheme further • The Council’s school admissions team has placed 135 Ukrainian children in schools across Herefordshire. • Children and young people are also arriving through the Family Scheme. The Council does not have any way of tracking these arrivals, so numbers are uncertain. • The vast majority of Ukrainian guests arriving through the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme do not have access to their own transport. Due to the nature of the sponsorship scheme, families from the Ukraine are living in urban and rural areas spread across the whole county. The aim of offering free bus travel is to enable people from the Ukraine to access appointments, training, work and social opportunities without being fully reliant on their sponsors. • Investment in community transport will reduce reliance on hosts to get guests to formal appointment during working hours and is particularly important for those living in rural areas with little public transport. • The travel initiatives detailed above will mean that Ukrainian guests can access essential services, work and social activities all of which are significant elements of the resettlement process. <p>The total maximum value of this decision is £679K. All of the cost detailed in this decision will be met by funding provided by the Government for the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.</p> |
| <p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the cost detailed in this decision will be met by funding provided by the Government to facilitate and support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme outlined below. • The Government have agreed to pay local authorities £10,500 per person arriving under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Each person arriving through the scheme receives an initial payment of £200 from this sum, leaving a total of £10,300 to be allocated by the Council towards support. |
| <p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p> | <p>To provide the transport support proposed but funded from existing council resources. This option is not recommended. The Council and its main partners do not have the resources to provide all of the support outlined above.</p> <p>Not to provide the proposed transport schemes. This option is not recommended. Transport is an essential element of the resettlement process enabling guests to access ESOL, training, education, work and social activities all of which contribute to community integration.</p> |
| <p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p> | <p>None.</p> |