

## Record of operational decision

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| <b>Decision title:</b>                   | To extend the Support for Ukraine Community Integration Grant scheme funded through the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, originally approved through a Record of Officer Decision taken on 01.09.22.   |
| <b>Date of decision:</b>                 | 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2023  |
| <b>Decision maker:</b>                   | Corporate Director of Community Wellbeing   |
| <b>Authority for delegated decision:</b> | The <a href="#">Support for Ukraine Cabinet decision made in October 2022</a> approved that authority is delegated to the Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing to take all operational and budgetary decisions in relation to their proposals and the implementation, including the use of contingency sums and budget variations within the overall approved budget.   |
| <b>Ward:</b>                             | Countywide  |
| <b>Consultation:</b>                     | <p>The grant scheme has been developed through engagement with council services including Talk Community, the Delegated Grants Team, Community Learning Team and through wider consultation with voluntary and community organisations. This included those groups already working with Ukrainians in Herefordshire. These departments and organisations have been involved in the current proposal to extend the scheme, which has received overwhelming support.</p> <p>This grant scheme has worked well and proved very effective in increasing support to Ukrainian guests and their hosts as well as supporting community integration through a number of activities across the county, provided by the voluntary and community sector. The cabinet member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing has been briefed on the proposal to extend the community grant scheme as part of a wider briefing on Refugee and Migration Services in July 2023.</p>   |
| <b>Decision made:</b>                    | <p>As a result of the success of the grant scheme, together with ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the end of the grant scheme is extended from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. The extended scheme will support new applications as well as the continuation projects, where there is a proven need.</p> <p>The updated decision is based substantially on <a href="#">the original decision made on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022</a> with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a second round of funding, with all projects to be complete by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.</li> <li>• Due to the continued need to support new arrivals and existing guests as they resettle in Herefordshire, applications for the continuation of projects from round one will be considered where they have a proven track record and where there is evidence of continuing need. Funding to be no more than an additional £100,000.</li> <li>• More than one application from a single organisation will be considered, as long as they can demonstrate that they are the most appropriate applicant. Initial applications will have a maximum grant level of £100,000.</li> <li>• A further activity: <i>services which support the resettlement of Ukrainians within Herefordshire</i> has been added to those to be supported through the scheme.</li> </ul> |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The separate Wellbeing Help and Support allocation has been removed from the original proposal. Applications have already been made through the main grant scheme to specifically support the mental and physical wellbeing of the Ukrainian guests, so a separate allocation is not required.</li> <li>• The Director of Community Wellbeing delegates to the Senior Responsible Officer for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme approval of all grants and sign all offer letters made as part of the Support for Ukraine Community Integration Grant Scheme.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Reasons for decision:</b></p>   | <p>The Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme was launched on the 14th March 2022.</p> <p>The scheme enables people living in the UK to offer accommodation in their own homes or property they own to individuals and families displaced from the Ukraine due to the war with Russia.</p> <p>To date 700 Ukrainians have arrived in Herefordshire through the scheme, with about 30% aged 18 years old or younger. There are still more Ukrainians seeking to move to the UK, but this is limited by the number of hosts who are available.</p> <p>Government guidance to local authorities makes it clear that they should play a key role in supporting the integration of Ukrainian families within their local communities. The grant scheme has played a key role in supporting this and therefore will continue to for another year.</p>   |
| <p><b>Equality Considerations</b></p>   | <p>The proposals outlined in original cabinet decision seek to offer people fleeing the war in Ukraine the opportunity to live, work and integrate into the community in Herefordshire. People arriving in Herefordshire from the Ukraine are entitled to all of the services and support that is available to UK citizens, including those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The community integration grant scheme seeks to foster good relations between people already living in Herefordshire and people from the Ukraine as they resettle. The aims of the grant scheme are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that Ukrainian guests feel welcome, safe and supported in Herefordshire.</li> <li>2. Support hosting individuals and families to feel confident in supporting their guests.</li> <li>3. Build strong relationships in and across communities through community integration activities.</li> <li>4. Sustain the relationship between hosts and guests</li> <li>5. Create opportunities for education, training and employment.</li> <li>6. Promoting better understanding of refugee experiences.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b></p> | <p>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.</p> <p>The Government has agreed to pay local authorities £10,500 per person arriving under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme up to 31.12.22 and £5,900 after this date.</p> <p>The indicative budget for the community integration grant scheme within the Cabinet report (October 22) was capped at £2,470,000 based on an estimate of 900 guests up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The total number of guests that have arrived so far is 700. It is very unlikely that this number will reach 900 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The figure of grant approved as at 30.06.23 is £628,886.</p>  |

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| <b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b> | <p>There are no other financially viable options available. The Council and its main partners do not have the resources to provide all of the support outlined above. Community integration is an essential element of the resettlement process as set out in the Government guidance.</p> <p>These costs can only be met through the Homes for Ukraine budget and are directly linked to the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme.</p> |
| <b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>               | <p>None</p>   |

Signed..... Date:  
Hilary Hall – Director Community Wellbeing.

**Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.**