

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	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.
Date of decision:	15 th October 2024
Decision maker:	Service Director, All Age Commissioning, Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	The Support for Ukraine Cabinet decision made in October 2022 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.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	The grant scheme has been developed through engagement with council services and through wider consultation with voluntary and community organisations. 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 services and activities across the county, provided by the voluntary and community sector. Results from a survey of sponsors and their guests has been used to further refine the grant scheme.
Decision made:	<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 31st January 2025 to 31st January 2026. Whilst the extended scheme is open to new applications as well as the continuation projects, the emphasis will be on supporting continuation activity, where there is a proven need. The updated decision is based substantially on the original decision made on 1st September 2022 and informed by the decision for further funding made on 21st August 2023 with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a third round of funding, with all projects to be complete by 31st January 2026. • Identified need to support new arrivals and existing guests as they resettle in Herefordshire will be considered, with the emphasis on continuity of support. Applications to support projects from previous rounds will be prioritised where they have a proven track record and where there is evidence of continuing need. • More than one application from a single organisation will be considered, as long as they can demonstrate that they are the most appropriate applicant. Applications will have a maximum grant level of £100,000. • The following aims are intended to provide a greater focus for Round Three as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ensure that Ukrainian guests feel welcome, safe and supported in Herefordshire b. Support hosting individuals and families to feel confident in supporting their guests c. Sustain the relationship between hosts and guests d. Support access to education, training and employment e. Support Ukrainians to achieve independent living and

	<p>sustainable housing in Herefordshire</p> <p>f. Support vulnerable Ukrainians to overcome barriers to successful integration.</p> <p>Untargeted community integration activity is no longer likely to be supported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an internal charge for grant administration of 5% of the grant allocation. • 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.
Reasons for decision:	<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 over 800 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 sponsors 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>
Equality Considerations	<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>This grant scheme seeks to overcome the disadvantages that Ukrainians face in settling in a new country and supports them to fully integrate within Herefordshire communities.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<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. The total number of guests that have arrived so far is 820. The forecast figure of grant spend by 31st January 2025 is £1,382,491.</p> <p>The original provision for administration costs of the grant was estimated to be £77,500. This was an underestimate and should have been based on 5% of the grant allocation or £123,500. This additional cost will be met from the overall budget for the Scheme.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<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>

**Details of any
declarations
of interest made:**

None

Signed..... Date: 16/10/2024