

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To further extend the Support for Ukraine Community Integration Grant scheme funded through the Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme to end on 31 st January 2027
Date of decision:	30/09/2025
Decision maker:	Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	The Support for Ukraine Cabinet decision made in October 2022 approved authority to be delegated to the Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing for 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. Input from partners, council departments and 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 grant scheme is extended from 1st February 2026 to 31st January 2027. Thereafter the SUCIG scheme will end. The last round of funding will be focussed on continuation activity, as well as ensuring a forward strategy to continue support through other means where there is a proven need.</p> <p>The updated decision is based substantially on the original decision made on 1st September 2022 and informed by the decision to extend further funding for SUCIG made on 15/10/2024 with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a fourth and final round of funding, with all projects to be complete by 31st January 2027. • Applications will be restricted to those organisations supported in the previous round of grant funding. • More than one application from a single organisation will be considered, as long as they can demonstrate that they are the most appropriate applicant. Each application will have a maximum grant level of £66,000. • The overall funding available will be capped at £370,000 (66% of the previous funding round). • The following aims are intended to provide a greater focus for Round Four as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage new hosts as well as support existing host / guest relationships b. Support access to employment, with a focus on maximising skills, knowledge and experience of Ukrainian guests

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Support Ukrainians to achieve independent living and sustainable housing in Herefordshire d. Encourage all Ukrainians to be proficient in English, focusing on the barriers they may face to achieving this e. Support the most vulnerable Ukrainians to overcome barriers to successful integration. f. Encourage self-help and mutual support to ensure continued successful integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untargeted community integration activity will no longer be supported. • 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>As at 30th June 2025, 900 Ukrainians fleeing the war in Ukraine have chosen Herefordshire as their first destination under the Homes for Ukraine 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 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 central government to facilitate and support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme outlined below.</p> <p>The Government 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. As at 30.06.25 the number of guests that have come to the UK and arrived first in Herefordshire is 900. The forecast figure of grant spend by 31st January 2026 is £1,829,638. The forecast costs of administration are £124,320 to the end of the scheme.</p>

	All costs will be met from funding provided by central government.
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 will be met through the Homes for Ukraine budget as the benefits are directly attributable to the aims of the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed: Date: