

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	15 NOVEMBER 2022	5
FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE – HOMES FOR UKRAINE SCHEME			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The Homes for Ukraine Scheme was launched by the government on 14 March 2022. This scheme allows people living in the UK to sponsor a named Ukrainian national or family to come to live in the UK with them, providing they have suitable accommodation to offer.

As part of the government's commitment to helping people flee the conflict in Ukraine, district councils have been asked to help to support Ukrainian families via integration events in the community and support them if they become homeless.

Funding has been made available to deliver community integration events and financial provisions in the incident that Ukrainian guests become homeless. The funding is per Ukrainian guest and is broken down to £1,000 per guest to support the integration of the Ukrainians into the community and a further £2,500 per guest to support the Ukrainians in the event of homelessness.

Under the scheme, each host family was asked to provide accommodation to Ukrainian guests for six months. This has recently been extended by a further six months, but many families are struggling to offer this over the Christmas period. Due to the national housing shortage, the Ukrainian guests are finding it hard to secure housing and are likely to present themselves homeless at the end of their period with the sponsors.

RECOMMENDATION

Committees are requested to:

1. Recommend to Council approval of a fully funded revenue budget increase of £320,000 over the three financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25, delivering the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as detailed within the report, with the funding provided via Lancashire County Council for this purpose.
2. The committee is invited to approve the appointment of a housing officer and administrative staff to help administer the Homes for Ukraine scheme on a temporary basis fully funded from the grant as set out in the report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

HYPERLINK

<alendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1327/Committee/22/Default.aspx>

[Finance &](#)

[Democracy Committee – 28 September 2022](#)

Following consideration of this matter, it was RESOLVED:

1. To approve a fully funded revenue budget increase of £155,000 in 2022/23 to deliver the Homes for Ukraine Scheme as detailed within the report.

2. That further updates on expenditure to date be reported to the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

Background

1. The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
2. This scheme is open to Ukrainian nationals who were residents in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and to their immediate family members (for example spouse/partner and children under 18) who may be of other nationalities, to be sponsored to come to the UK. Applicants can apply from Ukraine or any other third country. The [gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine](https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine) scheme allows individual members of the public (sponsors) to sponsor named people from Ukraine (guests) who meet the eligibility criteria of this scheme. The number of people who can access this scheme is uncapped and is dependent on the capacity of the sponsors who come forward.
3. Guests will be able to live and work in the UK for up to 3 years and access benefits, healthcare, employment, and other support. Those arriving need to meet standard security checks prior to being issued a visa. Sponsors and all adults in sponsors' households will also be subject to initial Police National Computer (PNC), criminal records and Warnings Index checks by the Home Office.
4. In two-tier areas, both districts and counties have access to funds for their relevant duties under the scheme, and Lancashire County Council has granted £155,000 to Fylde Council for support to Ukrainian guests who have arrived in the Borough during the period March to July 2022 with and are passporting a further £320,000 for the continued delivery support of the scheme in the next round of funding for additional the further guests who have arrived in Fylde.
5. The funding is based on a per Ukrainian guest and is broken down to £1000 per guest to support the integration of the Ukrainians into the community and £2500 per guest to support the Ukrainians in the event of homelessness and is discretionary. The priority is to ensure as many relationships as possible are sustainable supporting guests for six months or longer, however, in a number of cases, this will not be possible.
6. Councils will be able to rematch Ukraine guests with new sponsors applicable during the initial 6-month stay or at the end of an initial sponsorship. Finding another host is an option for those who are not ready to leave sponsorship and move into their alternative accommodation, but can't stay with their current host, following the end of their initial stay. If the rematch process fails and the guest has not found alternative accommodation it is the responsibility of the lower tier authority (district) to provide homelessness assistance. The grant funding includes the provision of this service.
7. The scheme has increased due to the growing demand for officer resources to rematch guests and sponsors, provide advice on housing options within the Fylde area and administer and monitor the current guest and sponsor payments in compliance with the guidelines set by Lancashire County Council. To deliver the scheme there is an additional resource is required need for a temporary full-time Housing service refugee support

officer and a temporary part-time administrative support officer. It is anticipated that these roles posts would be appointed for a period of 12 months only and reviewed if the scheme is required to continue and in the event, there is further funding to extend the employment period with the possibility of a 12-month extension depending on funding.

8. The two temporary posts for 12 months with the possibility of extending for a further 12 months will be fully funded by the Home for Ukraine Scheme. The first post Housing Services Officer scale 6 will be responsible for providing comprehensive housing advice and homeless services. The second post, a part time admin support officer scale 5 will provide advice and support to the Ukrainian refugees and the host families. The budget requirement including on-costs for 2022/23 is £13,472 and 2023/24 £45,400 with a further £1,500 for consumables in 2022/23. The remainder of funding £259,628 will be utilised to deliver the requirements of the scheme over the next two years, including potentially extending the two posts if required. Additionally, it will be used to facilitate community integration, identified assistance with the deposit required for housing and to facilitate other homelessness administration costs. The estimated spending profile for the delivery of the scheme is therefore summarised in the table below:

Table 1: Estimated spending profile for the delivery of the scheme

	2022/23 Estimated budget requirement £	2023/24 Estimated budget requirement £	Total Estimated budget requirement £
Staffing costs, including oncosts – 12 month	13,472	45,400	58,872
Consumables	1,500	0	1,500
Other scheme deliver costs, as set out in the report	60,000	199,628	259,628
Total	74,972	245,028	320,000

Phasing between years will be adjusted to reflect actual scheme expenditure as the scheme develops.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The report recommends to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully funded revenue budgeted increase of £320,000 to be met in full from Homes for Ukraine funding as detailed in the body of the report.
Legal	No legal implications arising because of this report
Community Safety	No Community Safety implications arising because of this report
Human Rights and Equalities	We are working closely with partners to ensure that there are no exploitation and other issues with respect to our guests.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No Sustainability and Environmental impact implications arising because of this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No Health & Safety and Risk Management implications arising because of this report

CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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	28 October 2022

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Finance & Democracy Committee	28/9/22	ps://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1327/Committee/22/Default.aspx" Committee papers