

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

12 April 2022

CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT, AND REGULATORY SERVICES: COUNCILLOR DAVID SMITH

Report Title	Homes for Ukraine Scheme
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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

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List of Appendices

Appendix A: Presentation on current position regarding Refugee Resettlement in West Northamptonshire

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update Cabinet members on the current position regarding resettlement of refugees in West Northamptonshire, in particular the Homes for Ukraine.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As a result of the Russian government's war against Ukraine, the UK government has opened several routes of safety in the UK for people fleeing Ukraine: UK Family Scheme visa; Homes for Ukraine Scheme. These new schemes will operate alongside existing resettlement schemes such as Afghan Relocations & Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).
- 2.2 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is actively supporting people who have fled Afghanistan in West Northamptonshire to resettle and re-build their lives in the UK. With the announcement of schemes enabling people fleeing Ukraine to come to the UK, WNC is developing its working arrangements to be able to provide appropriate support to people arriving in West Northamptonshire.
- 2.3 A Powerpoint presentation has been prepared that outlines the different schemes currently operational in West Northants, the current position locally and our response. This document is included as Appendix A.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To note the content of this report and associated appendices.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 To support the work being taken by statutory agencies across the county and the approach being taken locally in West Northants.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022. On 18 March a Home Office form opened for visa applications. Since then, there has been ongoing information provided on GOV.UK for sponsors, guests and local authorities. The latest guidance for councils was updated on 30 March 2022.
- 5.2 The Homes for Ukraine scheme has been launched whilst the council is still providing wrap around support to two Bridging Hotels accommodating people who have fled Afghanistan.
- 5.3 Appendix A outlines the current position regarding Afghan resettlement, the schemes that have been put in place to assist people fleeing Ukraine and our current position locally in supporting the schemes.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1.1 Central government considers councils have a critical role to play in the success of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and are uniquely placed to support communities to welcome Ukrainians to the UK. The guidance on the Homes for Ukraine scheme outlines a specific role for councils across England in supporting the scheme.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 Councils will be provided with grant funding from DLUHC based on a funding rate per person and this is to be used in order to meet the associated costs both for providing council services and for administering payments. Further details of the funding/tariff are outlined in Appendix A.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Central government has issued guidance outlining the role of councils across England in supporting the scheme. The guidance does not replace or contradict the council's statutory duties or responsibilities.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 The countywide Tactical Co-ordination Group has established a risk register that is monitored on a weekly basis to identify the key risks and develop strategies and processes to manage and mitigate these risks.

7.4 Consultation

- 7.4.1 The countywide response to Homes for Ukraine across statutory agencies is being coordinated through a Tactical Coordination Group under the Local Resilience Forum arrangements. Therefore, health colleagues, Fire and Police are part of the multi-agency arrangements developing our response to Homes for Ukraine and other resettlement work.

7.5 Climate Impact

- 7.5.1 There are no specific climate and environmental impact that may arise from our work to support the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

7.6 **Community Impact**

- 7.6.1 The council has had one meeting with key community and voluntary sector organisations and faith groups to start collaborative working to design our local integration support package for the Ukrainian families coming into our local communities. Key partners have been invited to a Task & Finish Group where partners will work with the council to help design our local response. Underneath the Task & Finish Group locality groups will be set up where the council will work with local community and faith groups to develop the localised response and offer. The council is also meeting with town and parish councils to establish what role they can play in developing our local response across West Northants.

8. **Background Papers**

None