

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Allocation of emergency funding: Homes for Ukraine
Divisions Affected:	All divisions
Key Decision:	Yes
Reason Key:	Affects two or more Divisions
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	Cabinet decision 31 May 2022 Min ref: 96/22 Agenda Template (surreycc.gov.uk)

Summary

The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Through this scheme the government is providing funding at a rate of **£10,500** per person (**guest funding**) to councils to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. The government is also providing funding for councils to administer the optional 'thank you' payments at the **£350** per sponsoring household (**host funding**) per month rate.

Lord Harrington raised the suggestion of doubling the thank you payments to help with rising cost of living and enable sponsors to continue to be able to afford to continue to host up to the 12-month mark. Officers have raised the question with DLUHC as to whether this suggestion will be pursued under the new Government. A formal response is yet to be received but it is understood that it is unlikely to proceed. In light of this a number of other county and unitary authorities have made the decision to make additional payments to sponsors funded out of the £10,500 guest funding that local authorities receive on a quarterly basis in arrears.

Proposal

Having considered approaches elsewhere and following discussions with the Ukraine Task Group, the District and Borough Ukraine Leads and the S151 Officers it is recommended that sponsors in Surrey hosting guest/s under the Homes for Ukraine scheme should be offered an additional £250 payment per month between November 2022 and March 2023 giving sponsors a total monthly payment of £600. The additional £250 payment will be top sliced from the £10,500 per guest tariff paid from DLUHC meaning that the county and borough and districts will equally fund it from their share of the funds.

The £10,500 per person funding should be shared with the lower tier authorities. This split was initially agreed as:

Expenditure type:	£	%	Tier that receives funding
Total Funding per person	10,500		
DBS check	50		Upper except GBC
Subsistence	200		Upper
Remaining after DBS & Subsistence	10,250		
General Contingency - 10% of total	1,050	10%	Available county-wide (bid basis?). Held by County
Homelessness Contingency - 10% of total	1,050	10%	Lower
Remaining funding to be allocated	8,150		
Upper*	4,075	50%	Upper
Lower*	4,075	50%	Lower
Balance remaining	-		

Illustrative totals based on applications

at 21/04/2022

	£'m	Share
D&B Total	11.7	49%
SCC Total	9.8	41%
General contingency	2.4	10%
Total	23.9	1.0

Including the additional thank you payments at a rate of £250 per month between November 2022 and March 2023, means the following change:

Expenditure type:	£	%	Tier that receives funding
Total Funding per person	10,500		
DBS check	50		Upper except GBC
Subsistence	200		Upper
Extra thank you payments	1,250		Assumption £250 x 5 months(Nov-March 23)
Remaining after DBS & Subsistence	9,000		
General Contingency - 10% of total	1,050	10%	Available county-wide (bid basis?). Held by County
Homelessness Contingency - 10% of total	1,050	10%	Lower
Remaining funding to be allocated	6,900		
Upper*	3,450	50%	Upper
Lower*	3,450	50%	Lower
Balance remaining	-		

The payments would be made to Districts and Boroughs in arrears, on a monthly basis, once they inform Corporate Finance how many payments they have made that month.

Decision made

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

Sponsors in Surrey hosting guest/s under the Homes for Ukraine scheme should be offered an additional £250 payment per month between November 2022 and March 2023. The additional £250 payment will be top sliced from the £10,500 per guest tariff paid from DLUHC.

Reasons for Decision:

To assist hosts of Ukrainians with the cost of living over the winter months.

Decision taken by:

Leigh Whitehouse – Executive Director for Resources
Michael Coughlin – Executive Director of Partnership, prosperity

	& Growth
Decision taken on:	05 November 2022
To be implemented on:	Maximum of 5 monthly payments to be made to Districts and Boroughs as set out above.

Alternative options considered

The alternative is to not issue the payments and hope that hosts can afford to retain guests without additional support. This could lead to an increase in homelessness of Ukrainians if hosts are unable to support these people.

A number of allocation mechanisms were considered, but the proposal above was deemed to provide the most impact across the County.

Summary of any financial implications

To date we have received:

Qtr 1 –

Guests (1,593) x £10,500 = £16,726,500

Thank you payments (217) x £350 = £75,950 (passed straight to D&Bs)

Total paid and received = £16,802,450

Qtr 2 –

Guests (2,494 – 1,593 = 901) x £10,500 = £9,460,500

Thank you payments (2,256-217=2,039) x £350 = 713,650 (passed straight to D&Bs)

Awaiting payment of = **£10,174,150**

It is anticipated that the impact of this proposal is between £500k-£1m which is affordable within the grant received to date.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

None

Consultation/Process Followed

Discussions were held with the Ukraine Task Group, the District and Borough Ukraine Leads and the District and Borough S151 Officers.

Background Documents

Cabinet report 31st May 2022 setting out the council's response to emergency funding.

Exempt:

No