

## WRITTEN STATEMENT OF DECISION BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### SECTION A

**DATE OF DECISION:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**PORTFOLIO AREA:** Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio  
**SUBJECT TITLE:** Homes for Ukraine Scheme Funding and Local Support Offer

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

### SECTION B – IDENTITY OF THE “DECISION-MAKER”

**Name of Officer:** Andrew Ferrier  
**Title:** Chief Executive

Pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of “Delegations to Chief Executive” in Part 3 of the Constitution, namely

“To do anything, in consultation with the Leader, which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of the Council’s functions subject to:

- (i) the matter being regarded as an emergency or urgent situation; and
- (ii) a report back to the Council, Cabinet or Committee concerned. “

### SECTION C – SUMMARY

#### Background

Government has recently introduced a scheme for refugees fleeing Ukraine and announced a funding package to support this, of £10.5K per refugee arriving plus premiums for those who may be of school age. The funding will be paid to Hampshire County Council with some of that resource being passed on to districts to fulfil their role under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

The districts have been working with the County Council and encouraging progress on an indicative funding arrangement for some weeks now, and HCC has now confirmed the indicative funding arrangement. It is necessary for TVBC to quickly mobilise local support for refugees using this funding to pump prime work on some key priority areas.

The distribution of funding to the districts is being undertaken based on the anticipated level of refugees in each area as at 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, with the intention to pay the funding on account, in tranches of 20%. HCC have determined to hold back a further 52% of the total funding they receive for emerging pressures and medium term requirements. The indicative allocation for Test Valley is £609,840.

This funding is being provided to enable TVBC to address the following:

- Escalated host (home) issues
- Local communication including District welcome pack content
- Single Point of Contact for support needs
- CVS coordination, support events, translation
- Specialist Case workers per District including housing & homelessness & support for re-matching
- Escalated housing issues

Immediate priorities in Test Valley (and in the other districts) are to put in place specialist case working support for refugees and sponsors, and to ensure targeted support is available for community organisations locally.

Officers are working on the detail of how we will mobilise this.

#### ***SECTION D – THE DECISION***

"That authority is given to the Head of Housing & Environmental Health:-

1. In consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Environmental Health, the Portfolio Holder for Finance & Revenues, and the Head of Finance & Revenues, to make decisions associated with the targeting and spending of Homes for Ukraine Scheme funding, in accordance with the requirements of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme to enable the delivery of an effective local support offer for Ukrainian refugees and their sponsors in the local area.

#### ***SECTION E – REASONS FOR THE DECISION***

***The decision-maker's reasons for making the decision recorded in Section D:***

Administration of these grant funds does not fall within the scope of existing delegated authority. Government and local communities will expect support to be mobilised as soon as practically possible. Therefore appropriate authority is required to meet these expectations and get dedicated support for this cohort on the ground.

There is no convenient meeting of the Council or Cabinet to which this decision could be brought. Waiting to bring the decision to Committee would cause unacceptable delay in implementing the support offer and delay the measures designed to support Ukrainian refugees in this area.

**SECTION F – DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

The options are:

1. to give delegated authority to the Head of Housing & Environmental Health (in consultation with specified members and the Head of Finance & Revenues where appropriate); or
2. to refer decisions around how this funding is targeted (or the issue of giving delegated authority) to Committee.

Option 2 would result in delays and potential harm to refugee households, including a greater potential for homelessness impacts to arise from the scheme, and would delay the mobilisation of support for a particularly vulnerable cohort in the local area. Delays in targeting this funding may also cause damage to the Council's reputation. Option 2 is therefore rejected.

**SECTION G – OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

None

**SECTION H – BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were taken into consideration when making the decision:

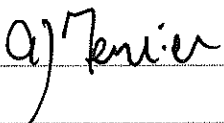
1. Funding proposal from HCC.
2. Phil Turner Briefing Note

**SECTION I – Any Conflict of Interest Declared and Dispensation Granted**


None.

We certify that the decision this document records was made Pursuant to Delegated Powers as set out in paragraph (2) of "Delegations to Chief Executive" in Part 3 of the Constitution and is a true and accurate record or minute of that decision.

Chief Executive:

  
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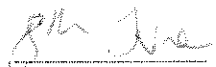
Dated:

  
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The Leader of the Council

  
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Dated:

  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2022