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**Report to: CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Date of Meeting: 23 JUNE 2022**

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**Subject: UKRAINE DISPLACED PERSONS RESETTLEMENT SCHEME**

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**Report by: STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (PLACE)**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This paper provides Council with an update on the Ukraine Displaced Persons (UDP) scheme and the Councils role in supporting the scheme. Over the last three months work has been undertaken by UK and Scottish Government, Cosla and Councils to develop a humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine and specifically supporting Ukrainian displaced persons seeking to come to Scotland to escape the conflict. This paper sets out how the Council proposes to support the arrivals of UDPs and provides details on the allocation of funding from UK Government and how it is proposed that it is utilised in Clackmannanshire to support the programme. The paper also seeks to provide clarity on the alignment of the Ukraine scheme within the wider Afghanistan and Syrian Resettlement Scheme approved by Council in 2015 and amended in 2019 and 2021.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. Council is asked to:
- a. Note the latest position in relation to both the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Super Sponsor scheme set out in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7 and note the Councils responsibilities under the scheme set out at paragraph 3.10;
  - b. Note the anticipated funding allocations to deliver the Ukraine Scheme set out in para 3.13;
  - c. Agree the spend of £1,066,591 from the funding allocation to support the Ukrainian Displaced Persons scheme in Clackmannanshire. Detailed costs are provided at appendix A.
  - d. Note that the operational and financial management and oversight of the programme sits with the Strategic Director for Place.
  - e. Note that an update report will be brought back to Council in August 2022 which will set out progress and any significant developments arising from implementation.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1. Council initially approved the resettlement of 24 families from the conflict in Syria in September 2015. In October 2019 Council agreed to welcome a further 24 families. In September 2021, in response to an urgent request from the UK government to resettle those who supported UK forces in Afghanistan, Council agreed to widen the scope of the agreed resettlement programme to include those displaced from Afghanistan. Council also agreed to extend arrangements to cover future UK resettlement programmes up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. A cap of 24 families was agreed as part of this decision. Governance was agreed by Council on how funding would be utilised and that responsibility for management and financial oversight would sit with Housing.
- 3.2. In February of this year the war in Ukraine broke out and immediately the Home Office commenced work to develop a humanitarian response, and working with Scottish Government and Council's, support Ukrainians seeking to come to Scotland to escape the conflict. This has been managed through three schemes: Family Visa Scheme; Homes for Ukraine and Super Sponsor Scheme. The Homes for Ukraine and Super Sponsor schemes have required extensive work at a Local Authority level. While Council's have been supporting refugee settlement schemes since 2015 the speed and scale of the work to welcome Ukrainian persons has been significant and has required decisions to be taken at pace.
- 3.3. Whilst at a national level the Ukrainian scheme is designed to be closely aligned with the wider Afghanistan and Syrian resettlement schemes and is being built on learning and good practice from those schemes there are significant differences between the two programmes, not least the Council's inability to influence the number of arrivals to Clackmannanshire under the Ukraine scheme. It is proposed that whilst the Ukraine scheme is managed by the Council's resettlement teams who are also managing the wider programme, the schemes are kept separate for the purposes of governance, resources and management of funding.
- 3.4. Under the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme 39 Ukrainian persons have settled in 19 sponsor homes in Clackmannanshire. 20 arrivals are children under the age of 18 years. Sponsors and households are required to complete various identity and property checks and this work has been led by Council services. Each Ukrainian arrival has also been provided with support from the Housing Support Team and Education where required.
- 3.5. There has also been a significant amount of work led by the Voluntary Sector in Clackmannanshire in response to the humanitarian crisis. This work, led by Play Alloa and the Wimpy Park group has seen the coordination of local donations of aid for Ukraine. This work is ongoing with the groups still collecting donations of medical supplies, food and clothing. Play Alloa has also established a weekly drop in network for Ukrainian families already living here to help them integrate into Clackmannanshire and access services in a non-stigmatising way. These sessions are well attended and families can access sanitary products, toiletries, school uniform and clothing and food. These items have been donated by community groups and individuals from across the county who are keen to help support Ukrainian arrivals.

- 3.6. Under the Scottish Government led Super Sponsor Scheme, households were asked to make an application to host Ukrainian families via an Expression of Interest process. A Partnership Agreement has recently been agreed by Cosla which provides clarity on the roles and responsibilities and the processes which will support the matching and management of Ukrainian persons and hosts who have expressed an interest in the Super Sponsor scheme. Welcome Hubs have now been established for arrivals into Edinburgh, Glasgow, Refrewshire and Cairnryan. Council's are leading work to ensure the required identification, property and disclosure checks are completed and in place for those who arrive into Scotland via the scheme.
- 3.7. In Clackmannanshire checks are well underway on sponsors who applied through the Expression of Interest application process. 66 households from across Clackmannanshire applied through this route. All checks are required to be completed prior to the arrival of Ukrainian families through the Super Sponsor scheme, however as Ukrainian persons are currently being housed at the welcome hubs there is urgency being placed on Council's to complete the required checks so that matching can be completed. It is not known at this stage what the potential number of Ukrainian persons being matched to Clackmannanshire properties are however projections are that it could be anywhere between 130 and 180 individuals. For the purposes of resource and financial planning, costs and assumptions are based in the sections that follow on 130 UDPs including 55 children travelling to Clackmannanshire. Council is asked to note that funding income is estimated at this stage as a result.
- 3.8. While the checks are being progressed by Council services and are expected to be completed over the coming weeks, a longer term pressure will be placed on Housing Support and Education to support Ukrainian families to integrate into Clackmannanshire communities. It is also anticipated that some support may be required to support sponsor families over the course of the scheme. To support this work a funding package has been agreed by UK and Scottish Governments to ensure that adequate support provision can be provided for Ukrainian families. This funding is additional to that already in place to support wider resettlement schemes.
- 3.9. Funding has been agreed for one year covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This includes:
- £173k one off grant from Home Office to cover administrative costs.
  - £10,500k funding for 2022/23 for each UDP arrival
  - £350 'thank you' payment per sponsoring household.
  - Additional funding for each child to cover Education costs as follows:
    - Early years (ages 2 to 4) - £3,000
    - Primary (ages 5 -11) - £6,580
    - Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755
    - These tariffs include support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

- 3.10. This funding is provided to enable the Council to meet its responsibilities to deliver the Ukraine Resettlement scheme. The financial contributions offered by UK Government should be sufficient to cover any costs incurred by Council in implementing these responsibilities. The responsibilities placed on the Council are summarised as follows:
- a) The provision of education. Council's are required to provide school places for children of school age.
  - b) Service Referrals. Where necessary, councils should provide advice and referrals to specialist public health services as appropriate e.g. mental health services, adult social care and children's services.
  - c) Work and Benefits. Council's should support guests to access local Jobcentre Plus appointments for benefit assessments and job-seeking, including any additional benefits enabled by Social Security Scotland.
  - d) Homelessness assistance. There may be cases where the sponsor / guest relationship breaks down and the guest is at risk of homelessness. This would trigger the Council's standard homelessness duties which arise under sections 31 (persons found homeless) and s32(2) (threatened with homelessness) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987. It is worth noting that at the time of writing no Ukrainians have presented as homeless in Clackmannanshire.
  - e) Community Integration. Council's and their partners will play a key role in the integration of Ukrainian families into their local communities. Integration might include ESOL provision, access to translation services, community events, using community champions, interfaith groups and helping to sign post support.
  - f) Council's will also administer 'thank you' payments at the £350 per sponsoring household per month rate.
  - g) The Council where the sponsor accommodation is located is asked to provide an interim payment (in line with other resettlement schemes) of £200 per guest for subsistence costs
  - h) Under both Homes for Ukraine and the Scottish Super Sponsor Scheme council's will conduct an enhanced disclosure check and a property visit.
  - i) In addition Council's are required to ensure they provide safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children and adults arriving into Scotland from Ukraine, recognising that some may require formal support and safeguarding to be in place. Unaccompanied children and children travelling with adults without legal guardianship is a particular risk which requires careful management. The legal framework for Unaccompanied Children is outlined in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, which covers looked after children and care leavers in Scotland. Unaccompanied Children from Ukraine will become looked after children, subject to section 25 of the 1995 Act. Local authorities will therefore have responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of these children. Guidance on Unaccompanied Children from Ukraine has been developed by the UK Government and Cosla is currently engaging with

Scottish Government on how this will be implemented in Scotland with regard to the Super Sponsor scheme.

- 3.11 In order for the Council to fulfill these responsibilities a review of resources and capacity has been undertaken by officers. Additional staffing resource is identified to implement the support and functions required for the scheme. These staffing resources will create additional capacity in, and will complement existing resettlement teams in Place and People directorates. These posts are fixed term for 12 months subject to additional funding being announced by UK Government. The required posts are:
- 2 fixed term ESOL workers at G6
  - 1 fixed term Family Support Worker at G6
  - 1 fixed term Resettlement Coordinator Education and Social Work G8
  - 2.5 fixed term Housing Support Workers G6.
- 3.12 Additional costs are also identified. These include administration costs for the £200 initial payment for each Ukrainian arrival which is managed by Council; transportation costs; interpretation costs; costs associated with minor property adaptations; costs to cover clothing and hardship payments; standby payments to cover out of hours costs and overtime costs required to process the required Disclosure Scotland checks for sponsors. In addition, contingency costs are also identified associated with homelessness of Ukrainian families in the event of a breakdown in the sponsor arrangement, and costs associated with managing safeguarding of unaccompanied children and children travelling with adults without guardianship. A breakdown of all costs are provided at Appendix A.
- 3.13 A summary of the income and costs associated with the Ukrainian scheme is set out below (exhibit 1). Council is asked to agree the expenditure of £1,066,591 and note that an unallocated funding amount of £880, 109 is identified. This sum may be required to cover unforeseen expenditure subject to approval from Council. Council is asked to note that funding allocations from UK and Scottish Governments is provided for 12 months with no decision at this stage on future funding packages to support the Ukraine scheme.

Exhibit 1

<b>Ukraine Scheme Income April 2022-July 2023</b>	<b>£</b>
Scottish Government Grant (Indicative)	245,000
Families Grant (Indicative based on 130 families)	1,701,700
<b>Total Estimated Income</b>	<b>1,946, 700</b>
Total Estimated Expenditure	1,066, 591
Unallocated Funds	880, 109

## **Next Stages**

- 3.14 Council officers will continue to engage with key stakeholders including Cosla, UK and Scottish Governments to deliver the Ukraine Scheme and to prepare for the arrivals of UDPs under the Super Sponsor scheme. Subject to approval, recruitment of the identified posts in this paper will be progressed immediately. A progress update report will be brought back to the next meeting of Council in August 2022.

## **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 4.1. No sustainability implications are identified.

## **5.0 Resource Implications**

### *5.1. Financial Details*

- 5.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes X

- 5.3. Finance has been consulted and has agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes X

### *5.4. Staffing*

- 5.5. Staffing and resource requirements and costs are set out in the paper and appendices.

## **6.0 Exempt Reports**

- 6.1. Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No X

## **7.0 Declarations**

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

- (1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box )

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all   
Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life  
Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential  
Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

- (2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes  No

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix A: Ukrainian Displaced Persons Resettlement Scheme Cost Breakdown April 2022-July 2023.

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes  (please list the documents below) No

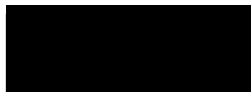
Warm Scottish Welcome: Guidance for Local Authorities April 2022

Refugee Resettlement Programme Report to Council December 2021

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### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Pete Leonard	Strategic Director Place	





## Appendix A: Ukrainian Displaced Persons Resettlement Scheme Cost Breakdown April 2022-July 2023

Resource Requirement					
	FTE	Anticipated Costs	Year 1 (22/23)	Year 2 (23/24)	Total
<b>People Directorate</b>					
Family Support Worker	1	-	£29,985	£10,495	£40,480
Refugee Coordinator	1	-	£38,483	£13,469	£51,952
ESOL CLD Worker	2	-	£59,970	£20,990	£80,960
Unaccompanied Children (Provisional Sum)		£250,000			£250,000
Childcare Admin Overtime		£5,000			£5,000
<b>TOTAL :</b>					<b>£428,392</b>
<b>Place Directorate</b>					
	FTE	Anticipated Costs	Year 1 (22/23)	Year 2 (23/24)	Total
Housing Support Officer	2.5	-	£74,962	£26,237	£101,199
<b>Staffing Total</b>					<b>£101,199</b>
Potential Scottish Welfare Fund Provision	-	£100,000	-		£100,000
Welcome Payment (£200 per person)	-	£260,000	-		£260,000
Interpretation	-	£80,000	-		£80,000
Travel	-	£2,000			£2,000
Minor property works (support to enable sponsor compliance)		£5,000			£5,000
Community Based Support grants (Provisional sum)		£15,000			£15,000
Standby	-	£10,000	-		£10,000
Emergency Accommodation Provision (Provisional Sum)		£65,000			£65,000
<b>Expenses Total</b>					<b>£537,000</b>
<b>PLACE TOTAL:</b>					<b>£638,199</b>
<b>ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE - GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>£1,066,591</b>
<b>Indicative Income</b>					
Families	Number	Anticipated Income	April 22 - July 23		
Adults	75	£10,500 each	£787,500		
Children aged under 2	3	£10,500 each	£31,500		
Children aged 2 - 4	12	£13,500 each	£162,000		
Children aged 5 - 10	20	£17,080 each	£341,600		
Children aged 11 - 18	20	£18,955 each	£379,100		
<b>Families Sub Total</b>				<b>£1,701,700</b>	
<b>Administration Allocation</b>					

Scottish Government Grant		£245,000
<b>Administration Allocation Sub Total</b>		<b>£245,000</b>
<b>INDICATIVE INCOME - GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>£1,946,700</b>
<b>UNALLOCATED FUNDS</b>		<b>£880,109</b>

Assumptions:	
1	130 Persons arriving from Ukraine
2	55 Children
3	Children's funding includes age related education allowance
4	Most arrivals will occur April - July 22
5	12 month staffing cost calculated from July 22 to June 23
6	Notional 5% added for wage inflation