

## Homes For Ukraine Proposed Delivery Plan

---



**PURPOSE:** Final Decision Report

**KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION:** Key decision over £500k

**COMMITTEE:** Adult Social Care Committee

**DATE:** 01 July 2024

**TITLE:** Homes For Ukraine Proposed Delivery Plan

**Ward(s):** All

**Officer presenting the report:** Mette Le Jakobsen

**Job title:** Director, Adult Social Care.

**Committee Chair:** Councillor Lorraine Francis

**Executive Director lead:** Hugh Evans: Executive Director for Adult and Communities

**Proposal origin:** BCC Staff

### **Purpose of Report:**

To seek approval for continued use of the Homes for Ukraine Grant. To approve an approach to supporting Ukrainian guests in Bristol in the light of learning from delivery since 2022 and in the context of the launch of the Ukraine Permission Extension.

### **Evidence Base:**

#### **1. Introduction and Grant Conditions.**

The Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The scheme is open to Ukrainian nationals who were residents in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and to their immediate family members. The scheme is fully funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

People in the UK can sponsor a Ukrainian to obtain a visa to travel to the UK<sup>1</sup>. Most Sponsors become hosts as they open their homes up to provide rooms and shared

---

<sup>1</sup> On 19 February 2024 changes were made to the guidance on approved sponsors to require that new sponsors of Homes for Ukraine applications must be either British or Irish citizens or have indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK and commit to a minimum 6-month sponsorship period.

facilities; and Sponsors also provide alternative accommodation, including self-contained homes.

This report seeks approval to continue the programme in line with the grant conditions for scheme funding.<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of the Homes for Ukraine funding is to provide funding for local authorities to provide support to individuals and families to rebuild their lives and integrate into communities.<sup>3</sup>

As well as completing all 5 mandatory safeguarding and accommodation checks, local authorities are required to plan for and offer support provision around:

- Education
- Work and benefits
- Homelessness prevention assistance, facilitating rematches, and move-on support
- Community integration<sup>4</sup>

## 2. The Proposal

In the light of ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the recent government decision to allow guests to apply to stay longer, with the introduction of the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme,<sup>5</sup> it is proposed to extend support to 2027.

### Priorities

Bristol Homes for Ukraine's priorities are aligned with the principles of Bristol as a City of Sanctuary, the council's values and vision, and the vision of the Bristol Refugee Resettlement Team (BRRT) and are as follows:

- Welcome & Welfare; *We want to provide a warm welcome and enabling safety, security and a sense of place and home for all our clients*
- Host Support; *We want all hosts to feel comfortable and have the tools and knowledge for a positive hosting experience, good support for guests, and sustained and extended host/guest arrangements*
- Employment & English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); *We want to enable focus and resources to help secure English language learning and employment opportunities for all guests. ESOL and employment are important for our clients to feel safe, secure and gain independence in Bristol, including when it is time to find move-on accommodation.*
- Accommodation Need & Tenancy Support; *We want to prevent homelessness, enable sustainable tenancies, for a house to be home, and increase independence.*

---

<sup>2</sup> See [Grant conditions for scheme funding: Homes for Ukraine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>3</sup> Refer to [Homes for Ukraine scheme \(2022-23\) local authority tariff payment grant determination No. 31/6538 \(England\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Refer to [Homes for Ukraine: council guides - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

<sup>5</sup> Refer to [Ukraine Permission Extension scheme information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## Objectives

Programme objectives are to achieve the positive outcomes and contribute to achieving the Council's vision to drive "an inclusive, sustainable and healthy city of hope and aspiration, one where everyone can share in its success."<sup>6</sup>

Bristol Homes for Ukraine programme has collaborative relationships with internal and external partners and central government. It also listens to client feedback to inform improvements and how we help to achieve positive outcomes for clients and the city.

The team works with clients and partners to use grant funding to deliver:

- Support that enables guests to feel safe, secure and welcomed
- Prevention of homelessness
- Accommodation options and sustainable tenancies

Appendix 1 illustrates Bristol Homes for Ukraine's structure, and relationships to help achieve the objectives. The service sits within Adult Social Care with the programme manager reporting to a Resettlement Service Manager. Bristol City Council employs the programme manager, 4 senior support workers, 2 housing officers and a business support officer.

### **3. Background Data and Feedback from Ukrainian Guests.**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024:

- 892 people, in 577 households have arrived in Bristol through the HfU programme.
- There are 639 people in 402 households in Bristol, of which 275 people are in accommodation with 205 hosts.

The programme team have managed not only to help people settle into host's accommodation but also to move on when new hosts or accommodation is needed. This is a key contribution to promoting independence.

- There have been 95 households rematched from one host accommodation to another within Bristol.
- Bristol Homes for Ukraine supported 365 people in 155 households into accommodation where they are supported to sustain their tenancies and become as independent as possible.

193 people have visas pending (126 of these are already issued). The recent volume of arrivals has averaged 13 per month<sup>7</sup>. It is projected that this will increase following the launch of Ukraine Permission Extension scheme.

### **4. Finance.**

---

<sup>6</sup> Refer to [Corporate Strategy 2022-27 \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/corporate-strategy-2022-27)

<sup>7</sup> Based on data from the last six months.

The purpose of the Homes for Ukraine tariff grant is to provide a per-person tariff of £5,900 to support local authorities to provide wrap-around support to individuals and families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. This aligns with the Council’s requirements to plan for and offer support around preventing homelessness and promoting education, employment and community integration.

Local authorities initially received funding of £10,500 per arrival, but since 31 December 2022, DLUHC reduced this to £5,900 for each arrival.

‘Thank you’ payments of £350 per month for the first 12 months and then £500 for the next 12 months, are also payable to sponsors by the government for providing suitable accommodation for Ukrainian guests to live in.

Bristol received £7.6m in grant funding for 2022/23 (relating to the initial much higher numbers and tariff rates) and £1.7m for 2023/24 (with a further £0.76m expected for the final quarter of 2023/24).

Additional government funding is expected should there be further new arrivals. Table 1 sets out planned expenditure proposals for 2024/25 which will be fully funded from government grant income and indicative costs for a further two years to 31 March 2027.

**Table 1.**

<b>Expenditure Analysis</b>	<b>Estimated Planned Expenditure 2024/25</b>	<b>Estimated Planned Expenditure 2025 to March 2027 (2 financial years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Staff costs	425,000	884,000	<b>1,309,000</b>
Host payments	420,000	840,000	<b>1,260,000</b>
Private Rented Sector Support	350,000	1,350,000	<b>1,700,000</b>
Community integration and welfare	255,287	647,691	<b>902,978</b>
Contingency for other operating costs	-	196,098	<b>196,098</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1,450,287</b>	<b>3,917,789</b>	<b>5,368,076</b>

**Officer Recommendations:**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the content of this report including background information on the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
2. Notes the successful delivery of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme since 2022.
3. Agrees the continuation of the Homes for Ukraine Programme running until 31 March 2027
4. Agrees to accept and spend Homes for Ukraine grant funding, giving delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults and Communities in consultation

with the Chair of the Adult Social Care Committee to spend Homes for Ukraine Grant in line with the procurement procedures and maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

1. The proposals in this paper seek to develop how the Council supports people who have arrived in the City from Ukraine. This delivers outcomes relating particularly to themes 1,2, 4 and 5 of the corporate strategy. The work also aligns with the core objectives of the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Inclusion Strategy that relate to meeting basic needs, social inclusion and economic inclusion.

**City Benefits:**

1. This work takes place in the context of Bristol City Council’s [Refugee and Asylum Seeker Inclusion Strategy](#), which states:

‘A Local Authority on its own cannot guarantee that someone seeking sanctuary will be able to thrive in their new community. But we do have a corporate vision to “play a leading role in driving a city of hope and aspiration where everyone can share in its success”. Making that real for refugees and asylum seekers requires the Council to play a number of key roles, which together form the overall objectives that we will seek to achieve through the implementation of this strategy. The level and nature of support that the Council can provide to people is often dependent on their legal status.’

**Consultation Details:** An externally facilitated review of guest satisfaction was commissioned from the Good Faith Partnership in 2023 (full details available on request). As part of our contract with Refugee Welcome Homes we gather on going data about outcomes. HfU team members and the Refugee Resettlement Service remain in regular contact with BCC housing colleagues and have weekly review meetings with VCSE partners.

**Background Documents:** Key Background Documents are referenced in the text of this report as hyperlinks or foot notes.

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>c£5.4m for 3 years 2024- 2027</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	DLUHC Homes for Ukraine Grant Funding.
<b>Capital Cost</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>If yes - existing or new saving?</b> Choose an item. <b>OR Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Professional comments section:

**1. Finance Advice:** This report seeks permission for the Executive Director of Adults and Communities, in consultation with the Chair of the Adult Social Care Committee, to spend the Homes for Ukraine Grant received from the Government. The grant income available to provide support is expected to be in the region of £2.5m in 2024/25 (based on 2023/24 levels). Expenditure proposals will need to be kept within the grant funding envelope and it is not envisaged that there will be any costs falling upon the general fund.

**Finance Business Partner:** Denise Hunt 14 May 2024

**2. Legal Advice:** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Council's own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 8 May 2024

**3. Implications on IT:** I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Alex Simpson, Senior Solution Architect 8 May 24

**4. HR Advice:** The report is seeking approval to implement the recommended option, of Longer Term Comprehensive HfU Programme to March 2027. Additional staffing resources are required to deliver this option, BCC's Recruitment and Selection, Redeployment and Secondment policies should be used to attract and recruit skilled individuals.

**HR Partner:** Debbie Hunt, HR Consultancy Manager – Adults & Communities, Children's & Education 10 May 2024

## APPENDICES

<b>Appendix A – Bristol Homes for Ukraine Priorities &amp; Partners</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix E – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix</b>	<b>NO</b>

