

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Havering Refugee and Crisis Response Team Small Grant Fund Round 2
Decision Maker:	Patrick Odling-Smee
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Gillian Ford
SLT Lead:	Patrick Odling-Smee
Report Author and contact details:	Troy Aitken Troy.aitken@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	There is a need to ensure we are able to provide additional outreach support to our newly arrived residents delivered by local VCS organisations.
Financial summary:	The total funding for this Small Grant scheme is up to a maximum of £90,000, with a cap of £10k per organisation.
Relevant OSC:	Peoples OSC
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes, it is a non key decision by Officer

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION
<p>Recommend to launch Havering Refugee and Crisis Response Team Small Grant Fund Round 2 that will provide funding to local organisations to deliver orientation and outreach to support Ukrainian arrivals and other groups such as asylum seekers who are struggling to make their basic needs.</p> <p>If approval is granted, officers will complete another Non Key Decision report on the successful applications.</p>

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Non-key Executive Decision

Part 3

3.3 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team

General powers

(a) To take any steps necessary for proper management and administration of allocated portfolios; and

(c) To make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way the Council's functions are exercised having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness etc. as required by external regulatory agencies.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The first Havering Refugee and Crisis Response team Small Grants Scheme was launched in September 2022 and promoted to VCS organisations and social enterprise schemes in Havering. There were 4 successful applications in Round 1 amounting to £70,000.

These projects continue to deliver orientation and outreach support to Ukrainian arrivals who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

The rationale of the grant are to:

- Facilitate connection and inclusion for people who arrive in Havering.
- Support people to access health services and local support including mental health services, immunisation catch up, English classes, school admissions, local activities, financial support etc.
- Strengthen and increase capacity among local VCS organisations and faith groups who face increasing demand for their services.
- Reduce the factors, which drive poverty, destitution and exploitation for people with precarious immigration status.

The Round 1 fund was very successful, and we are now planning to launch Round 2 of the fund.

Learning from the experience of our first funding round we are wanting to support projects delivered by organisations within one, or more, of the following:

- Social connections and integration
- Supporting access to volunteer opportunities
- Outreach & resettlement wraparound support, including mental health and trauma support
- Supporting access to social activities (this can be sports, team activities, integration)
- In person conversational English language training
- Reducing isolation for young people
- Reducing isolation for older people
- Learning and development (examples including digital inclusion)
- Supporting access to employment (examples include finding employment in chosen profession)
- Access to hot meals and cooking
- Pathways into distributions and donations (Supporting new arrivals to receive clothes, books, general items, laptops, phones, bikes etc)
- One-off events to support newly arrived residents

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OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The other option considered was to not proceed with further grants. This was rejected as we are able to use this scheme to strengthen and increase capacity among the VCS organisations who face increasing demand for their services.


PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

The Leader of the Council has been kept informed of the requirements that local councils have in providing support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Troy Aitken

Designation: Programme Manager

Signature: 

Date: 19.06.23

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 1.1. The Homes for Ukraine scheme is non-statutory scheme for which guidance is published by the DLUHC. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#:~:text=Background%20and%20eligibility,-The%20Homes%20for&text=This%20scheme%20is%20open%20to,to%20come%20to%20the%20UK>)
- 1.2. Essentially the Council received a grant of £10,500 per refugee in 2022 (£5,900 per refugee from 1 January 2023) to cover administration of payments to sponsors, and services to ensure rapid integration. Whilst the grant is not ring fenced it is subject to conditions including provision of data returns, and that the Authority “*must commission or provide services that ensure guests and sponsors are provided with a source of advice and support to assist with registering for mainstream benefits and services, including where necessary specialist public health services and community integration.*”
- 1.3. It is funded directly by the Homes for Ukraine grant tariff by DLUHC. Failure to comply with grant conditions could lead to a demand for repayment to DLUHC
- 1.4. Provision of the Homes for Ukraine scheme is an expectation of central government in supporting the relief effort as a result of the war in Ukraine and power to deliver this is within the general power of competence pursuant to section 1 Localism Act 2011. The Homes for Ukraine scheme does not replace or contradict Council’s statutory duties or responsibilities.
- 1.5. The Asylum Dispersal Grant is payable to the Local Authority which is free to determine how best to utilise the Funding but for monitoring and schemes’ evaluation purposes and it must be able to demonstrate that the eligibility conditions as set by the Secretary of State by DLHUC have been met in supporting Asylum Seeker Dispersal. For existing dispersed accommodation and beds in hotels, the government provides local authorities with a one off £750 payment for each asylum seeker who is in Home Office accommodation in the local authority’s area on 1st April 2023. The government currently provides £3,500 to local authorities for new and occupied dispersal beds.
- 1.6. The recommendation to provide small grants for voluntary agencies should comply with the purposes set out in the grant conditions above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

1. This paper seeks approval to allocate up to £90k from the Homes for Ukraine fund and the Asylum Dispersal Grant scheme to pay for community-based services provided by the third sector and other providers. The allocated amount is an estimate of the likely spend.
2. Organisations will be required to submit an application to access the funding. The successful bidders will be confirmed in a separate Report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce

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EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There is no environmental and climate change implications and risks

BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPENDICIES

Non-key Executive Decision

Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed



Name: Patrick Odling-Smee

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date:

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

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Signed _____