

Notice of NON KEY Executive Decision containing exempt information

This Executive Decision Report is part exempt and Appendix [A] is not available for public inspection as it contains or relates to exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. It is exempt because it refers to financial information/valuation and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Subject Heading:	Havering Refugee Small Grants fund award Round 2
Decision Maker:	Patrick Odling-Smee
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Keith Darvill
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 VCFS organisations.
Financial summary:	Eight successful applications, amounting to £90,916, are to be allocated funding from the Havering Refugee Small Grant Fund.
Relevant OSC:	Peoples OSC
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes Please note Small Grants Evaluation matrix is exempt info due to the commercial sensitivity of the information.

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Place an X in the [] as appropriate

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

To approve the recommendations in this report to make grant payments from the Havering Refugee Small Grant Fund to eight of the applicant organisations that are named and set out in this report that will provide support for all newly arrived families and individuals in Havering, helping them establish a life in the borough and feel like Havering is their home.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3 Responsibility for Functions, 2.2 Powers of Members of the Senior Leadership Team

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Homes for Ukraine Small Grants Scheme Round 2 was announced in June 2023 with up to £10k of funding available per organisation.

Learning from the experience of our first funding round we wanted 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

We had 14 applications for the Homes for Ukraine Small Grants scheme. The evaluation panel meeting recommended 8 for approval.

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The eight recommended applications were:

1. Rainham Foodbank (Quality Score 21/25)

- To build on the English My Way project to support Ukrainian adults in Havering to develop their English language and life skills, vital tools in supporting community integration.
- The project will build on Rainham Foodbank's success in facilitating a similar – now oversubscribed – programme for refugees and others with low levels of English language within Havering, including several Ukrainian participants.
- They will work with our team and our wider community networks, to identify newly arrived Ukrainian and refugees individuals in need of improving their English language and life skills

Funding - £10,000

2. St Edwards Church (Quality Score 21/25)

- They have created a Ukrainian Choir who have already sung at Christmas Fayre and before and after services at the monthly All Age Service
- Their vision is to build on the success but offer the Ukrainian children a more structured musical education, which will develop a wider range of musical skills and awards.
- Generate a musical programme based on key dates in the Ukrainian Calendar to appeal to the wider Ukrainian Community and in partnership with St Edwards Church Choir for singing in both Ukrainian and English.

Funding - £1,800

3. Havering Changing (lead organisation) (Quality Score 23/25)

Consortium bid on behalf of Havering Volunteer Centre, Romford BID and St.Edward the Confessor Parish Church of Romford

- Creative Community Café will give a place in the centre of the borough where people can meet, share their stories, create and build a supportive community together and to expand to open on a Saturday.

Funding - £30,000

4. HoPEC (House of Polish & European Community) (Quality Score 21/25)

- Hosting regular coffee meetings along with other events
- Visa and Biometric testing appointments
- Language interpreting

Funding - £9960

5. Havering Volunteer Centre (Quality Score 22/25)

- To provide access to free travel provision to enable greater access to volunteering opportunities in the borough as more organisations are asking for volunteers
- To provide push bikes on loan to individuals wishing to volunteer and for those who prefer public transport weekly bus passes to travel around the borough – bikeability courses will be available to those who wish to loan bikes.

Funding - £9,750

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6. Paint Wellbeing (Quality Score 20/25)

- Joint skills in counselling, art and teaching to provide support to clients who have under gone traumatic experiences.
- 8 pilot schemes participants attending 12 sessions on a weekly basis

Funding - £10,000

7. The Habbit Factory (Quality Score 20/25)

- Creative workshop sessions to engage with Children and Young People who are struggling with mainstream education due to coming from disadvantaged and traumatic backgrounds.
- Session designed to provide an inclusive environment, celebrating and addressing cultural and language barriers to help adults and young people to development soft skills (i.e communication, team work etc) to strengthen employment and skills development
- Will be delivered across the borough

Funding - £9606

8. Working Glass (Quality Score 23/25)

- Express stories of refugees, migrant and asylum seekers in Havering through the creation of glass
- 125 participants over 5 workshops to each create a piece of glass based on their story, culture and heritage.
- The final product will inform and educate the wider public, each part of the final piece would identify through the link through the QR code detailed information about the creator and the story behind it.
- Social network and understanding of all cultures as well as developing of craft skill.
- Will arrange travel for the participants.
- Language interrupting

Funding - £9,800

The unsuccessful evaluation scores from the six other applications were:

- Organisation A Quality score 13/25

The bid was for over 65s; most Ukrainians and Refugees are young with families.

- Organisation B Quality score 16/25

The application offered no addition to the platform, only that this bid was to maintain the running of the platform

- Organisation C Quality score 16/25

The bid was for over 50s; again most of our Ukrainians are young with family. There was no target set or how they would encourage the take up

- Organisation D Quality score 10/25

The bid lacked detail, the finances was based on £5K per month and hoping to get match funding, if no match funding then they would pare back services.

- Organisation E Quality score 14/25

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The bid was for a community kitchen and a consortia with Romford Mall, the majority of the funding was going to go for the hire of the venue cost. The lead bidder has had another bid in for similar services but half the costs.

- Organisation F Quality score 13/25

The bid was for over 50s; again most of our Ukrainians are young with family. There was no split in budget only asking between £5k - £10k

All organisations submitted applications within the agreed financial measures.

The appendix excel spreadsheet sets out the scoring matrix adopted by the evaluation panel and the scores for each of the bids. This is exempt from publication because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of the organisation.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The other option considered was to not proceed with supporting these applications in delivering outreach to support new arrivals. This was rejected as we are able to use this grant 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:07.09.23

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 receives a grant of £5,900 grant per refugee 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 recommendation to provide small grants for voluntary agencies should comply with the purposes set out in the grant conditions above.
- 1.6. The Asylum Dispersal Grant that will assist with supporting Asylum Seekers under Full Asylum Dispersal. The payment is to address concerns raised by Local Authorities in relation to pressure on local services associated with supporting Asylum Seekers.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 1.1. This paper seeks approval to allocate the following grants from the Homes for Ukraine Grant:
 - 1.1.1. Rainham Food Bank - £10,000
 - 1.1.2. St Edward Church - £1,800
 - 1.1.3. Havering Changing - £30,000
 - 1.1.4. HoPEC - £9,960TOTAL - £51,760

- 1.2. The following grants will be funded from the Asylum Dispersal Grant:
 - 1.2.1. Havering Volunteer Centre – £9,750
 - 1.2.2. Paint Well Being - £10,000
 - 1.2.3. The Habbit Factory – £9,606
 - 1.2.4. Working Glass - £9,800TOTAL - £39,156

- 1.3. The two grants sit within the Housing Demand Service.

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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

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.

This fund is very much about improving the quality of life and wellbeing of guests who come to Havering from Ukraine.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

There is no environmental and climate change implications and risks

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Small Grants evaluation sheet

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Odling-Smee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light gray rectangular background.

Name: Patrick Odling-Smee

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: 15/09/23

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 _____

Non-key Executive Decision

Signed _____