

## OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS FORM

<b>State the Delegated Authority that you are relying on to make this decision:</b> e.g., specific (identified in constitution) or general
<p>Delegate Authority approved to the Director of Environment and Community Services in relation to the amendments of financial support to sponsors for the Homes for Ukraine grant. Specifically relating to top up payments for Sponsors.</p> <p>This authority arises from the: <b>Homes for Ukraine Impact</b> Executive Member for Culture and Communities report of 19 April 2022. Citing the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note the impact of the Homes for Ukraine programme in Middlesbrough and agree how it is managed locally.</li></ul> <p>This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managing the interim payment for guests.</li><li>• Managing the ‘thank you’ payment for sponsors</li></ul>
<b>Subject of decision:</b>
<p>The decision is to provide sponsors with a top up payment to support their guest/s to remain in their property beyond the 6-month period.</p>
<b>Text of decision:</b> e.g., can include monies received by the Council, list any terms agreed, summary of the policy – Do not include any confidential information.
<p>The report approved a funding package consisting of grant funding to sponsors (people offering a home to people fleeing Ukraine) and grant funding to guests (people fleeing Ukraine) living in Middlesbrough.</p> <p>After the report, we are now nearing the end of the initial 6-month period and some hosts are struggling to maintain their guests during the current challenging financial environment. This top up payment is fully funded via the Homes for Ukraine grant, and it is being implemented in other areas of the country to support sponsors and ensure guests remain with their hosts.</p> <p>To support sponsors with the current cost of living crisis we will provide an optional top-up payment depending on the size of the household.</p> <p>The Top Up payment scheme is designed to encourage hosts to continue sponsorship of their guests beyond the initial 6-month period and help the guests transition into independent accommodation.</p> <p>Once sponsors have been hosting (a) guest(s) for 6 consecutive months then they become eligible to apply for a top-up payment that will remain available until the end of March 2023.</p>

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The top-up payment will be proportional to the size of the Ukrainian group that is staying with the Sponsor.

- Ukrainian guest group – 1 person £150/month from Month 7 top-up payment to Month 12
- Ukrainian guest group - 2 people £250/month from Month 7 top-up payment to Month 12
- Ukrainian guest group – 3+ people £350/month from Month 7 top-up payment to Month 12

This will be a separate payment once a month in addition to the £350 monthly thank-you payment. It will be two separate payments. It is a host's responsibility, prior to accepting the optional top-up payment, to ensure there is no impact on any benefit entitlements or tax affairs.

If the guest group were in multiple sponsorship households, then only one bonus payment of £500 would be payable. I.e., A Family that is currently split between multiple sponsorship households. Similarly, if the group consists of multiple people (I.e., Two friends or a mother and child), only one bonus payment of £500 would be payable

**Reason for decision:** e.g. benefits, new legislation requires a policy, review of opening hours, non- key decision, outside of agreed budget framework

If sponsors cannot afford to keep guests in their properties, the Ukraine families will become homeless, and the Local Authority will have a statutory duty to rehome them.

The grant funding provided to the Local Authority allows for top up payments to support sponsors and this amendment will provide consistency for guests, reduce disruption to schooling etc. and prevent homelessness.

### **Other options considered (if any)**

The Council could opt not to provide the top up payment and deal with families via the homeless route


**Has an Impact Assessment been completed Yes/No** – if yes please attach to the decision.

No

### **Declarations of Interest by any member or relevant local government body**

N/A

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<b>Who have you consulted as part of the decision-making process</b> e.g., Head of Service, Executive Member, Community Association, Surveyor?
Geoff Field – Director of Environment and Community Services Andrew Perriman – Head of Legal Services Marion Walker – Head of Stronger Communities Lisa Weatherhead – Finance Business Partner Cllr Stephen Hill – Executive Member for Culture and Communities
<b>Date of decision</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Service area</b>
Environment and Community Services
<b>Name of Delegated Officer making decision</b> - i.e., Officer who is designated the power in the Constitution
Director of Environment and Community Services – Geoff Field
<b>Name of the Officer making the decision – if power has been sub-delegated to another Officer.</b>
<b>List of background papers</b> (do not list if contain exempt/confidential information)
<b>Executive Report:</b> Homes for Ukraine on 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
<b>Signed:</b>  <b>Print: Geoff Field</b> <b>Dated: 15.11.2022</b>