

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE AND  
COMMUNITIES****LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUND SUPPORT FOR THE HOMES FOR UKRAINE  
SCHEME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for 5 applications under the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) grant fund that supports the delivery of the Council Plan through meeting the Local Communities Fund 2022-26 criteria.

**Information**

2. The Council recognises the huge contribution that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) makes to the lives of Nottinghamshire residents and in doing so has established the Local Communities Fund (LCF) on 15 September 2021.
3. On 04 July 2022, the Cabinet Member for Communities approved the design and establishment of the Homes for Ukraine (HFU) grant fund as part of the LCF. An initial allocation of **£100,000** was granted to the fund, funded through the revenue received by the Government to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.
4. The HFU grant fund opened for applications on 18 July 2022. Applications have been invited from organisations that demonstrate how they can support the additional needs of Ukrainian refugees and the communities around them.
5. On 14 September 2022, the Cabinet Member for Communities approved increasing the allocation for the Homes for Ukraine grant fund to **£200,000**. A further increase in the allocation by a further £100,000 to **£300,000** was approved on 19 September 2023.
6. Funding is being made available as part of a rolling programme, for example to help with:
  - Costs associated with supporting English language classes.
  - Costs associated with running job clubs.
  - Advice and support on financial matters.
  - Tackling loneliness and isolation through for example befriending schemes and support networks.
  - Promoting health and well-being

- Organising community events.
- Supporting and encouraging volunteering.

7. The parameters of the HFU grant fund reflect the key features of the LCF and include:

- A Member-led approach with the approval of grants made by the Cabinet Member for Communities
- A rolling programme of applications throughout the year
- A maximum of £5,000 per project/activity
- A simple application and assessment process

8. A breakdown of approved HFU grant fund applications alongside their value is displayed below:

Detail	Date	Value
<b>HFU Fund available</b>		<b>£ 300,000</b>
HFU applications approved (9)	September 2022	£ 39,895
HFU applications approved (6)	November 2022	£ 29,950
HFU applications approved (6)	December 2022	£ 26,000
HFU applications approved (5)	March 2023	£ 20,533
HFU applications approved (8)	July 2023	£ 36,460
HFU applications approved (3)	September 2023	£ 12,500
<b>Total allocated as of 21/09/23</b>		<b>£ 165,338</b>
HFU applications pending (5)	October 2023	£ 24,845
<b>Forecasted balance pending approval</b>		<b>£ 109,817</b>

9. As displayed in **Appendix 1**, an additional **5** HFU applications have been received, assessed against the criteria of the fund, and recommended for funding to the value of **£24,845**. If these recommendations are approved, a total of **£109,817** remains.

10. The latest round of applications are focused on Ukrainian refugees' health, access to employment and education, English language skills and opportunities for training. Each application contributes towards key issues in a combined community approach.

### Other Options Considered

11. Not to recommend these applications for funding. This may mean that voluntary and community groups will not be able to support HFU refugees and hosts.

### Reasons for Recommendation

12. To provide financial support to voluntary and community organisations working with HFU scheme refugees.

13. To fund applications that meet the criteria of the HFU grant fund.

## Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability, and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## Financial Implications

15. Five applications have been received for the HFU grant fund. It is recommended that these are awarded as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report, to the value of **£24,845**. If approved, a total of **£109,817** remains.

16. There are no financial implications. The applications are within HFU grant fund criteria and the awards can be met from the balance of the fund.

## Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

17. The HFU Scheme allows Ukrainians (and their immediate family members) with no family ties to the UK to be sponsored by individuals or organisations who can offer them a home such as a spare room or unoccupied residential self-contained unit.

18. Upper tier Councils have been given a range of responsibilities and are required to conduct accommodation, safeguarding, and welfare-checks to ensure that homes are of a suitable standard and that refugees arriving in the UK are safe.

19. The Council wants to help new arrivals to settle in Nottinghamshire and support communities who wish to help our refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. Building on the Councils expertise and that of its partners, practical interventions, and support to the voluntary and community can inform the development and delivery of support including helping refugees settle into their communities and access public services.

20. The proposals set out in this report will, as part of a larger package, help to support the integration of refugees into local communities with many of the refugees being women, children, and older people.

21. Allocating discretionary funding will enable local voluntary and community groups to continue to work with Ukrainian refugees coming to Nottinghamshire through the HFU Scheme. In making funding available, consideration of broader equality matters which support HFU scheme sponsors and refugees including those with protected characteristics will be included in the criteria of the fund.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member:

- 1) Approves the **£24,845** for 5 applications to the HFU grant fund as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.

**Mark Walker**  
**Interim Service Director, Place and Communities**

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### **Constitutional Comments (KK 22/09/2023)**

22. The Cabinet Member for Communities has delegated responsibility under COM.2 for support to communities including Community Hub and voluntary and community sector support (including funding). The proposal in this report is therefore within the remit of the Cabinet Member.

### **Financial Comments (PAA29 25/09/2023)**

23. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 15 of the report. Five awards totalling £24,845 are proposed from the HFU grant fund. A sum of £300,000 has been allocated to the HFU grant fund from Government grant. As set out in paragraph 8, thirty-seven applications totalling £165,338 have been approved to date from the HFU grant fund leaving a balance available for distribution of £134,662. There are no additional costs to the Council in respect of the proposed awards.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Committee Report – Local Communities Fund \(15/09/21\)](#)
- [Local Communities Fund Support for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme \(12/07/22\)](#)
- [Local Communities Fund Support for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme \(26/09/22\)](#)
- [Local Communities Fund Support for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme \(19/09/23\)](#)

### **Electoral Divisions**

- All

## APPENDIX 1

### HFU Grant Fund - Homes for Ukraine Recommendations

	Organisation	Project Summary	Recommended Amount
1	Nottingham Bikeworks (Countywide)	Nottingham Bikeworks has provided more than 60 bikes to Ukrainian refugees. This further funding requested would enable another 22 adults and 11 children to receive a bike, lock, and helmet. These bikes will support refugees' health and wellbeing, as well as increasing the opportunity to travel for employment in the local area.	£4,950
2	British Red Cross (Countywide)	The funding requested would support the continuation of 4 projects that have been expanded to support Ukrainian refugees. They include an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), class integration project (this includes presentations from universities, community groups and sports clubs), a job prospects project (including job application writing and interview preparation) and sports wellbeing sessions.	£5,000
3	Newark Community Hub Community Interest Company (Newark and Sherwood)	<p>The funding requested would cover a 6-month Conversational English Programme, including the initiation of a "Coffee and Conversations" group. It would also fund 6 months of business support and an expert's insights on legislation, coaching, and financial planning help.</p> <p>The funding would also enable 14 refugees to engage in a 12-week wellbeing programme, including yoga sessions tailored for trauma healing, art therapy, and classes around financial stability.</p>	£5,000

	Organisation	Project Summary	Recommended Amount
4	Voices in Refuge Community Interest Company (Countywide)	<p>The funding requested would enable 30 Ukrainian refugees to receive specialist interpreting training. The training gives participants the ability to understand the responsibilities and professional conduct of an interpreter, and an opportunity to practice interpreting skills in relevant contexts, such as advice services, housing, welfare benefits, education, and healthcare.</p> <p>The funding would enable two training courses for Ukrainian refugees, one in Bassetlaw (for north Nottinghamshire residents) and one in the south of the County (for Rushcliffe, Broxtowe and Gedling residents).</p>	£4,975
5	Nottingham Ukrainian School (Countywide)	<p>The funding requested would be used to cover the professional fee of the choir leader, for weekly rehearsals throughout the academic year 2023-2024. This will also be used for admin support and fees for 3 workshops led by invited professional musicians, resulting in a boost to confidence and aspirations.</p> <p>This will ensure continued development and engagement, enabling the choir's uninterrupted growth and success. The therapeutic aspect of choir participation aids children's psychological well-being and helps them process their experiences in a healthier way. Through choir performances, Ukrainian children can positively represent their own background and community to the larger society.</p>	£4,920
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£24,845</b>