



## North Devon Council

Report Date: Council – 20 July 2022

**Topic :** Homes For Ukraine Update

**Report by:** Service Lead Housing Options & Homelessness

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Homes For Ukraine Scheme (HFU) has now been in operation since March 2022. This report is to update Full Council as to the progress of this scheme

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. To note the potential impact the continuing rise in numbers could have on NDC services

### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Increase in numbers arriving, risk of placement break down. It is estimated by Government that 30% of placements will break down

### 4. REPORT

4.1. NDC currently have 79 guests in this area, 47 hosts

4.2. There is currently 27 hosts awaiting confirmation that their guest are due to arrive

4.3. DCC sent out 4.5 thousand emails out to hosts that expressed an interest in becoming a host, as of 23<sup>rd</sup> June DCC had received response from 50 hosts in the NDC confirming they wish to continue to progress becoming a host

4.4. DCC have transferred the first round of funding to LA, this will be continue on a quarter basis

4.5. We have completed on the commissioning of the Pickwell Support Service, this is working extremely well and communication between NDC, Guests, Hosts and Pickwell has shown to be successful

4.6. Weekly meetings being held with external services, DWP, Early Help, TDC, Sunrise. This has proved positive and ensure that we are addressing any issues as soon as they arise to prevent any breakdown of placement

4.7. The government have not indicated that they intended to put any number restrictions on arrivals

4.8. We are jointly working on a re-matching scheme to prevent the use of temporary accommodation, this both locally and I also sit on the national working group

## 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Pressure on staffing administration of the scheme
- 5.2. Potential risk to the Housing Service if placements break down as guests have full recourse to public funds so have the right to approach.
- 5.3. Impact on demand for temporary accommodation
- 5.4. Lack of affordable suitable accommodation in the Private Rented Sector to move guests into if placement ends
- 5.5. Initial agreement of 6 months will shortly be ending for some hosts, if not continued this again would impact on all services

## 6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. Please detail if there are/are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report. If so, please complete the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Summary form available on Insite and email to the Corporate and Community Services Team at [equality@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:equality@northdevon.gov.uk).

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 7.1. There are no environmental implications associated with the recommendations contained within this report

## 8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:
  - 8.1.1. Improving customer focus and/or – This could be negative impact on the local community due to current housing crisis

## 9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

- 9.1. Article 4.2

## 10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

## 11. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author confirms that advice has been taken from the following:

Leader – 12/07/2022

Chief Executive – 12/07/2022

Strategy & Resources Committee – 05/07/2022

Head of Service – 11/07/2022

Legal Services – 12/07/2022