



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

## **REGISTER OF URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Annex 2: Officer Delegations  
– Chief Executive

1) SUBJECT: Homes For Ukraine Host Payments

2) REQUESTED DECISION: Increase in host payments over the winter months  
(November 2022 – March 2023)

3) STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST AND WHY IT IS URGENT:

Due to the increase in utility costs host are now struggling with the additional costs incurred with having families in their accommodation. Some hosts are now stating that they will have to consider asking the families to leave. If this were to happen it would impact on temporary accommodation.

It is proposed that the fees increase by £100 per month for the first guest and £50 per month for each additional guest up to a maximum of a 9.

The decision is being taken under the Urgency procedure as until very recently it had been thought that the Home office would itself increase the funding but it is now clear that this won't happen. Waiting until the next Strategy and Resources committee could result in hosts cancelling their arrangements.

4) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

(NOTE: Please state if there are any financial implications. If so, state whether there are sufficient funds within the agreed budget. If there are insufficient funds please state how the decision will be financed).

NDC have funding from the scheme that will cover these additional costs without impacting on housing budgets

5) ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED: we could leave the fees as they exist at present but this will create pressure on the hosts and could then create situations where guests are homeless and presenting to the council. Increasing the fees will hopefully alleviate some of that pressure.

6) A RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED: None.

7) A NOTE OF ANY DISPENSATION IF GRANTED N/A

8) LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

(but not including published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in paragraph 10.4 and 10.5 of the Access to Information Procedural Rules Part 4 of the Constitution):

9) CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

The following have been consulted on this urgent decision:

Consultee	Consulted	Yes/No	Date
Leader of Council (or Deputy Leader)	Y		2/12/22
Chair of Committee (with the Authority to take the decision) (or Vice-Chair)			
Lead Member			
Ward Member(s)			
Head of Service (name)	Y		2/12/22
Finance	Y		Nov 22
Legal			

10) OFFICER REQUESTING URGENT DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Sarah Bentley – Service Lead Housing Options & Homelessness

11) APPROVED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE: YES

12) DATE OF DECISION: 2.12.22

13) CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMENTS: I agree that all steps possible should be taken to ensure that guests on the scheme remain with hosts if possible. This seems a sensible step to take to ensure that hosts are not adversely affected financially.

14) DATE TO BE PRESENTED TO STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

9 January 2023.

## GUIDANCE NOTES

### NOTE:

#### PROCEDURE FOR URGENT DECISIONS:

1. Completed form to be passed to the Chief Executive following consultation with the interested parties.
2. If a decision is specific to a Ward, efforts should be made to ascertain the views of the local Councillor (s).
3. The Chief Executive will make his decision.

#### PROCEDURE FOR URGENT DECISION MAKING AS PER THE CONSTITUTION

#### **Officer Delegations: the Chief Executive:**

#### **Urgent Decision Making**

- 3.48 To take a decision on any matter falling within the remit of any Committee in cases of urgency where it is not reasonably practicable to obtain prior approval of a Committee SUBJECT TO:
  - 3.48.1 the prior consultation, where practicable, with the Leader or Deputy Leader and the Chair or Vice Chair of the relevant Committee, and
  - 3.48.2 the proviso that this power will not extend to the determination of any application submitted pursuant to the Planning Acts or under the Licensing Act 2003 or the Gambling Act 2005, and
  - 3.48.3 the decision being reported to the next meeting of the relevant Committee and the next meeting of Strategy and Resources Committee.