



North Devon Council

Title of Decision Requested: Homes for Ukraine Top Up Thank You Payments to Hosts

Decision requested by decision maker: Approval to top up MHCLG Thank You Payments to our Homes for Ukraine Hosts

1. BACKGROUND / REASONS FOR THE DECISION REQUEST

- 1.1. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government issued a letter on 06 December 2024, setting out that Thank You Payments were to be reduced from £500 to £350 per month for households hosting Ukraine families. Additionally, once a guest joins the Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme, these payment are limited to an 18 month period.
- 1.2. Since that letter the Council have worked up the forecast payments to establish what funds would remain, to establish if we were able to offer top up payments. The proposal was then taken to Senior Management Team for a decision. The urgency of this decision is to enable us to advise our hosts before that funding is reduced and enable those payments.
- 1.3. The Council recognise that our hosts have provided safety to those fleeing conflict. They have offered up their homes and provided invaluable support to the families that have sought refuge in our District. In recognition of this the Council wishes to top up these payments from £350 to £425, an additional £75, for the next 12 months.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 2.1. This will be covered by Refugee Resettlement Funds

3. ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED?

- 3.1. The Council could have considered not topping up these Thank You Payments but this may have made it difficult for hosts to continue with their support, which in turn may result in our Ukraine guests approaching us as homeless.
- 3.2. Many Councils have chosen not to top up these payments but the Council discounted that option as it wishes to acknowledge the continued support our hosts provide.

4. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED?

- 4.1. None



5. DISPENSATION IF GRANTED

5.1. The reduction in the Thank You Payments comes into effect 01 April 2025 and if granted, this will enable timely payments to be made to the hosts.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1. Letter from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the planned reduction to the Thank You Payment.

7. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

7.1 Chief Executive

8. OFFICER REQUESTING DECISION TO BE TAKEN

Nina Lake. Head of PMO, Environmental Health & Housing

9. NAME OF DECISION TAKER

Ken Miles. Chief Executive

10. DATE DECISION TAKEN: 26 February 2025

11. APPROVED BY DECISION TAKER: Yes

12. DECISION TAKER'S COMMENTS:

Happy with this.