

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 21 March 2023

## Response to motion by Councillor Day - Ukraine Support

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine All
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

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Executive Director of Place

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# Report

## Response to motion by Councillor Day - Ukraine Support

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report responds to the motion by Councillor Day, which was approved by the Council on [15 December 2022](#), on Edinburgh's ongoing Ukraine Support.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The motion approved by the Council on 15 December 2022 requested an update report on:
- 3.1.1 Scottish Government plans for onward housing;
  - 3.1.2 Access to health provision and public health plans on the ship; and
  - 3.1.3 Costs incurred to date and costs reimbursed by the UK and Scottish Governments.

#### **Project Team**

- 3.2 In March 2022, the Council established a project team to manage Edinburgh's response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The response has encompassed activity at international, national and local levels and involved the deployment of significant resource by the Council and partners across the public, private and third sectors.
- 3.3 The project team are focused on:
- 3.3.1 Coordination of and contribution to international aid to Ukraine and the displaced Ukrainian diaspora in neighbouring countries;
  - 3.3.2 Support for Ukrainian Displaced People arriving through the Edinburgh Hub and into onward accommodation either in Edinburgh or other local authority areas across Scotland; and
  - 3.3.3 Support for Ukrainian people living in Edinburgh in Scottish Government procured temporary accommodation and where in hosted accommodation to them and their hosts.

- 3.4 A multi-agency approach is in place, with a summary of the organisations involved included in Appendix 1.
- 3.5 One of the first actions in the city's response, and at the request of the Scottish Government, was to set up a Welcome Hub for people arriving into Edinburgh. Originally envisaged as one of four equal Welcome Hubs across Scotland, Edinburgh quickly became the main arrival point in Scotland. With the support of RBS/Natwest, the Welcome Hub was established at Gogarburn House and opened in early April 2022.

### **Data**

- 3.6 This welcome operation, which is still ongoing, fits within the following national and local context. The following national context data (from UK Government) was provided on 2 February 2023:
- There have been 44,806 applications for Homes for Ukraine and Super Sponsor visas in Scotland (25.2% of UK total - 6,474 Homes for Ukraine, 38,332 Super Sponsor);
  - 37,897 visas have been granted (25.2% of UK total);
  - 23,161 people arrived in the UK (although not necessarily to Scotland) (20.4 % of UK total);
  - There are over 7,000 people in temporary (hotel or ship) accommodation across Scotland;
  - There are 14,736 people with visas who could still travel through the Super Sponsor Scheme; and
  - There are an unknown number of people who could still travel via the Homes for Ukraine scheme, as this visa scheme remains open.
- 3.6 Within the local context (using data held by the Council):
- In total, 10,285 people have arrived through the Edinburgh Welcome Hub at Gogarburn since it opened;
  - Since the end of September 2022, arrival rates have slowed significantly, averaging around 50 – 100 people per week. There is no advance intelligence, so arrival numbers and timing remains unpredictable;
  - 2,945 people (1,448 households) are known to be living in Edinburgh:
    - There are 1,164 people (569 households) on MS Victoria;
    - There are 751 people (398 households) in hosted accommodation;
    - There are 591 people (301 households) in Scottish Government bridging accommodation;
    - There are an estimated 439 people (180 households) staying with friends and family or privately matched accommodation; and

- 52 people (16 households) are staying in temporary accommodation organised by the Council.

3.7 At present, the data available is not comprehensive enough to confirm the exact number of Ukrainians now living in Scotland or Edinburgh. However, officers consider the Edinburgh data to be an undercount and estimate the true number is in excess of 3,000 people.

### **Financial Support**

3.8 Funding to support the Council's Ukraine response comes from three sources:

- Warm Scottish Welcome Funding;
- Homes for Ukraine Local Authority UK Government Tariff Funding; and
- UK Government Department for Education Tariff Funding.

3.9 Following agreement by the Scottish Government and COSLA, education tariff funding can be drawn down by Local Authorities from arrival date and wider tariff funding from 13 weeks post arrival date for those being accommodated in welcome accommodation. At present, there has been no funding confirmed from the UK Government for 2023/24 and no Health tariff had yet been agreed.

## **4. Main report**

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### **National Accommodation Strategy**

4.1 As noted above, Edinburgh is currently home to around to an estimated 3,000 Ukrainian people who have travelled to the UK. The accommodation options available to Ukrainians at point of arrival are:

4.1.1 Temporary accommodation procured by the Scottish Government in hotels and apartments both in the city, across Scotland or one of the two procured ships. Hotel and apartment accommodation is extremely limited in Edinburgh and the majority of new arrivals are accommodated out with Edinburgh.

4.1.2 Accommodation provided by private hosts;

4.1.3 A small number of Council/Housing Association properties have been allocated to Ukrainian people;

4.1.4 Private / mid-market rental; and

4.1.5 Temporary homeless accommodation procured by the Council

4.2 There is not currently a long term national accommodation strategy. If long term settled accommodation options are not identified within the city, city region and nationally, this will continue to present a substantial risk to the Council in respect of its homelessness duties.

4.3 In discussions with the Scottish Government the Council have been clear that, until a long-term national accommodation strategy is confirmed, the Scottish

Government must continue to provide and fund short term accommodation options within the city and nationally. This accommodation would include continuation of hotels, apartments, and the possible extension of the MS Victoria.

- 4.4 On 16 February 2023, the city region agreed an approach to support people to move into settled accommodation across the city region.

### **Resettlement Support**

- 4.5 The Scottish Government have agreed a Ukraine Long Term Resettlement Fund, with Scottish Ministers approving up to £50 million that will be available as a capital grant to Local Authorities (LAs) and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). Through this Fund, the Scottish Government is working with LAs and RSLs to increase the number of homes available to support the longer-term resettlement of Ukrainian people.
- 4.6 Properties and development sites are being identified by all city region LAs for consideration for funding. To date, 13 options have been identified and discussions with the Scottish Government are ongoing with proposals at various stages. The realistic timeline for any new properties becoming available would be six – 12 months.

### **Education**

- 4.7 As of 1 February 2023, almost 700 children are enrolled in Council schools. As places across the city are already under pressure in certain areas, an approach for allocating places has been designed to take into consideration the need to place displaced children from other countries as well.
- 4.8 With support from charities, electronic devices such as laptops and iPads have also been provided to student aged arrivals to ensure they can continue online studies in Ukrainian. Further to this, the independent sector supports a further 30 children with over 400 individuals also enrolled in further and higher education.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 The Council is currently developing plans to continue its support for Ukrainian people and will continue to engage with partners and the Scottish Government on this.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 Both UK and Scottish Governments contribute funding to support Ukraine related work. For every Ukrainian person settling in Edinburgh, the Council receives £10,500 from the UK Government with education payments of £3,000 for early years (ages 2 – 4), £6,580 for primary (ages 5 – 11) and £8,755 for secondary (ages 11 – 18).

- 6.2 This tariff funding, which is consistent with resettlement schemes the Council has previously contributed to (e.g. Syrian, Afghan), is designed to cover a wide range of supporting activity including safeguarding, move-on support including accommodation matching and access to the private rented sector, community integration, English language teaching, hosted property checks, and administration of host thank you payments. Host payments (of £350 per month, increased to £500 per month after 12 months) are also funded by the UK Government but subject to a separate claims process.
- 6.3 Additionally, the Council has secured agreement from the Scottish Government to meet costs associated with Edinburgh's Welcome Hub operation and support of people living on MS Victoria.
- 6.4 Funding of £3.44 million has been claimed from the Scottish Government and £2.70 million received. A further £19.86 million has been claimed from the UK Government for general tariff funding with £8.67 million received.
- 6.5 In total, the Council has received £11.37 million of funding to date.
- 6.6 Funding for the final quarter of 2022/23 is still to be claimed but is expected to be in the region of £12 million.
- 6.7 Payments for UK education tariff funding will be based on returns from the Council, detailing numbers of pupils enrolled in schools and early years settings. For this, the Council expects to receive in the region of £3.5 million, however this figure is still to be confirmed.
- 6.8 In December 2022 it was agreed that tariff funding would be made available to LAs for Ukrainian people following 13 weeks in temporary bridging accommodation.
- 6.9 Agreement has been reached for education tariff funding to be made available from date of arrival and not subject to the 13-week period for those pupils enrolled in schools.
- 6.10 The UK Government has confirmed it has no intention to claw back any funds unspent within a financial year provided funding continues to be spent on the activities for which it was allocated. However, to date the UK and Scottish Government have not reached agreement on any year two (2023/24) funding.
- 6.11 The intention therefore has been to profile a budget for up to three years' operation to cover the three-year leave to remain period Ukrainian scheme visas currently confer from year one funding only. This presents a significant risk to the Council as at this time, any new Ukrainian people arriving in Edinburgh post 1 April 2023 will not be eligible for either tariff or education funding and budgets will need to be adjusted accordingly.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Resettlement in general, but particularly at this level resulting from the war in Ukraine requires to be considered against the public sector equality duty described

within the Equality Act 2010 and the various human rights duties placed on the Council. Whilst resettlement of Ukrainian people is consistent with Council obligations, ongoing attention will be required to ensure good community relations are maintained, particularly around the potential for increased pressures on housing supply in the city which represents a significant risk to the Council.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>
- 8.2 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/super-sponsor-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-local-authorities>
- 8.3 [Scotland's support for displaced people from Ukraine: Super Sponsor Scheme review - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- 8.4 [Ukraine Longer Term Resettlement Fund - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- 8.5 [Supporting Ukraine and its people – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Membership of Edinburgh Ukraine Support Oversight Group

## Membership of Edinburgh Ukraine Support Oversight Group

- Council:
  - Ukraine Support Team (Chair)
  - Advice Shop
  - Communications
  - Customer
  - Health and Social Care Partnership
  - Housing
  - Procurement
  - Refugee and migration
  - Revenues and Benefits
  - Risk
  - Schools
  - Transport
- UK Border Force
- Capital City Partnership
- DWP
- Edinburgh Airport
- Edinburgh Ukrainian Club (Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain)
- EVOG
- Landry Kling (ship charter company)
- NHS Lothian
- Police Scotland
- Volunteer Edinburgh
- Scottish Refugee Council