

1. **Hanseatic Union - Funding for continued Refugee Support** (Pages 2 - 5)

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY OFFICERS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

This is a record of a decision taken by an officer under delegated powers and where necessary taken in consultation with members and officers.

HANSEATIC UNION – FUNDING FOR CONTINUED REFUGEE SUPPORT

Delegated Power

Specify the delegated power being exercised by reference to the Delegation Scheme or Cabinet minutes and date.

Council Constitution. Part 3 Responsibilities for Council Functions. Section 2 Functions Delegated to Cabinet Members and Officers – Scheme of Delegation, Functions:

7.12 – Health improvement and promotion including public health and community care and LILY

The Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities: day to day management

Decision Taken

Specify precise details of the decision taken

Following the outbreak of war in Ukraine and the government launching the ‘Homes for Ukraine’ and the ‘Ukraine Family Scheme’ to provide help and safe harbour for those fleeing the fighting, West Norfolk saw 400 refugees from Ukraine arriving under both schemes. The refugees often have no belongings other than what they have been able to carry from their homes.

In March 2022, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, using emergency powers stipulated under the Council's Constitution, agreed to provide financial support to the Hanseatic Union and Access to facilitate support and services for the refugees. Both organisations specialise in helping migrants settle into the area, assisting with matters such as housing, access to education, healthcare, benefits, and employment, along with a raft of other support such as clothing and toiletries.

The council entered into a Service level Agreement with the Hanseatic Union to provide direct services for refugees. The Hanseatic Union, together with Access are operating the refugee Welcome Centre in King's Court and are also arranging social events, arranging transport to collect biometric passports, providing benefit advice and job-seeking etc, to support the refugees settle into their new environments. The SLA has funded a full-time member of staff for the Hanseatic Union.

The existing funding agreement expires on 31st March 2023 and without further funding, the Hanseatic Union will not be able to continue to manage the Welcome Centre and would need to give formal notice to the member of staff employed to assist with the refugees.

To enable this important work to continue, the decision has been made to utilise the unused balance from the Councillor Community Grant Scheme (£16,000) to fund the Hanseatic Union for a further 6 months, until 30 September 2023.

Reasons for the Decision

Specify all reasons for taking the decision

The Leader has submitted the following Notice of Motion (4/23) to full council on 9 March 2023.

“One year on from the Putin regime’s illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine that has caused intolerable death, destruction, and misery. This council thanks all those locally who have opened their homes and hearts to the 400 refugees who have settled in west Norfolk and the staff of our reception centre and partner agencies who have worked so hard to support them. We also recommit our condemnation of the war, call for its cessation and withdraw of the invading forces and our support to the Ukrainian people for as long as is needed”.

Options considered

Any declarations of interest and details of any dispensations granted in respect of interests.

List of Background papers

Officer Delegated Decision 15 March 2022 – Ukrainian Emergency Support Grant
Officer Delegated Decision 23 March 2022 – Ukrainian Emergency Support

Authorisation

Post Held Chief Executive

Signature



Date 21.03.2023

Consultation with members/officers

If the decision is taken following consultation with the members/officers, please give details:

Signed by Member as consulted:

Cllr Sam Sandell



Date 21.03.2023

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



Name of policy/service/function						
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function?		New / Existing (delete as appropriate)				
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service rigidly constrained by statutory obligations		Further grant funding support for the Hanseatic Union and Access to enable them to continue to deliver wrap-around services to the refugees arriving from the Ukraine.				
Question		Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>			Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
		Age			x	
		Disability			x	
		Gender			x	
		Gender Re-assignment			x	
		Marriage/civil partnership			x	
		Pregnancy & maternity			x	
		Race	x			
		Religion or belief			x	
		Sexual orientation			x	
Other (eg low income)						
Question		Answer	Comments			
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?		Yes / No	There is almost overwhelming support for the refugees. The Government has relaxed some statutory guidelines for the refugees but there is no evidence this has caused any damage to existing relationships.			
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?		Yes / No	See response to No.2			
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?		Yes / No				
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section		Yes / No	Actions:			
			Actions agreed by EWG member: Name			
Assessment completed by: Name		Honor Howell				
Job title Assistant to the Chief Executive		Date: 21.03.2023				
Please Note: If there are any positive or negative impacts identified in question 1, or there any 'yes' responses to questions 2 – 4 a full impact assessment will be required.						