



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



Council

20 July 2023

Councillor Phil Dilks
Cabinet member for Housing and
Planning

Migration funding awards

Report Author

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Purpose of the Report

To seek approval from Council to accept the grant from the Home Office for the Afghan relocation funding award and to seek approval for the acceptance of grant from the Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the Homelessness Prevention award in relation to sourcing Ukraine families sustainable accommodation. The report also seeks delegation for the spend of the awards to the relevant partners contributing to the schemes.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Approves receipt of the first tranche and subsequent future tranches of Afghan relocations and funding award grant. The first grant award for the period April 2022 to January 2023 is for £1,372,502.
2. Approves receipt of the Homelessness Prevention award in relation to sourcing Ukraine families sustainable accommodation of £223,480.
3. Delegates to the Acting Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property, the authority to conclude contractual and grant agreement arrangements with the Home Office in relation to all tranches of funding related to Afghan relocations.

4. Delegates to the Acting Director of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Property, the authority to conclude contractual and grant agreement arrangements with the Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities for the Homelessness Prevention award in relation to sourcing Ukraine families sustainable accommodation.
5. Delegates to the Council's Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to allocate this and all future tranches of Afghan relocation funding between the necessary partners.
6. Delegates to the Council's Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to allocate the Homelessness Prevention award in relation to sourcing Ukraine families sustainable accommodation between the necessary partners.

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Housing that meets the needs of all residents
Which wards are impacted?	All

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The Council has been allocated funding of £28 per person, per day to provide support to individuals and families as part of the Afghan resettlement and relocation scheme. The grant entitlement for the period April 2022 to January 2023 is £1,372,502. The Council, as the accountable body for the grant funding, will reimburse partner organisations for the costs they incur in providing support. Grant claims will be paid once evidence has been received that expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the grant conditions.

- 1.2 The Homelessness Prevention fund award is an additional one-off payment made to the Council to provide sustainable accommodation for Ukraine families and any additional burdens arising in relation to homelessness pressures.

Completed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.3 There are no significant legal and governance implications arising from this report which are not already referred to in the body of the report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

2.1 Afghan Relocation Fund

The Home Office has awarded the Council the Afghan relocations and funding award of £1,372,502 to support and source accommodation for the Afghan cohort into permanent accommodation.

- 2.2 The scheme enables full resettlement for all families with fully furnished accommodation and a minimum of 12 month wrap around support as required from various partner agencies.

- 2.3 The scheme is a national programme and officers are working with all authorities across the UK to source accommodation utilising a strong partnership approach.

- 2.4 There are currently 21 families (151 individuals) remaining at the Urban Hotel in Grantham and we continue to work in partnership with all agencies and partners to find accommodation.

- 2.5 The funding will support partnership agencies with the delivery of their support services, as well as to supply furniture and appliances at the new accommodation.

- 2.6 The Council currently have 1 x Homeless Prevention Officer and 1 x Afghan support worker at the Urban Hotel, working with the families to find accommodation that meets their needs and is affordable, ensuring long term sustainability of the identified accommodation.

- 2.7 The funding is a grant award from the Home Office to support the Afghan resettlement and relocation scheme.

- 2.8 The grant funding award relates to is in relation to grant received for the period April 2022 to January 2023, there are further claims to be made until the need for funding to support ceases.

- 2.9 The grant award shall be disseminated to partner agencies and organisations that attend the Resettlement Partnership meetings. The validity of claims shall be ascertained through discussions and agreements at this forum.
- 2.10 Agencies in regular attendance at the Resettlement Partnership meetings include, Health, Education, Department of Work and Pensions and Wellbeing Services.
- 2.11 The Council shall act as the overarching accountable body for the allocation of claims to partner agencies and organisations.
- 2.12 **Homelessness Prevention Grant top up to support Ukraine guests into sustainable accommodation**
The Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has awarded the Council an additional top up award of £223,480 to support Ukraine families and any other homelessness pressures faced. This will enable the Council to ensure that they are able to support families in securing accommodation for homelessness needs.
- 2.13 The grant award shall support with additional pressures that the Council is facing relating to migration need and homelessness demands specifically in sourcing accommodation for Ukraine families.
- 2.14 The grant award relates to this financial year of 23/24 and delegation is being requested to allow the Council the ability to draw down on this funding award to meet the ongoing emerging operational and financial pressures.
- 2.15 The grant will give the ability to aid Ukraine families in sourcing sustainable accommodation and also address other homelessness pressures the Council is facing at this time.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 To pay back the funding award and absorb demands as part of the general fund pressure.
- 3.2 To allow the Council to draw down on the grant funding award to meet the additional pressures that have had to be met as part of the Migration demands.
- 3.3 The monies will be spent in line with the funding awards as set out above.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 **Do nothing** – Under this option, the council would not accept the funds from government. The purpose of the fund is to support local authorities and partners in the funds needed for the Migration demands. Therefore, under the ‘do nothing’ option, the Council would be at a loss financially.

- 4.2 **Take part in the scheme, but to pass the funds available to a partner working within the scheme** – Under this option, the council would take part in the scheme but on the basis of passing funds to a different Authority for them to own and manage the scheme. This option has been considered but has been discounted, given the scheme is within South Kesteven and allows the Council greater powers for the care of the scheme.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 To accept the Government funding offer of up to £1,372,502 to support the Afghan relocation scheme and the Homelessness Prevention top up of £233,480 to support the additional pressures relating to the Ukraine crisis and other homelessness demands.
- 5.2 By enabling the delegations the Council shall be able to allocate the funds as needed to the partners working with the Council. It will also give the ability to source sustainable accommodation as required meeting the needs of the migration crisis.