

Contact:

See individual reports

Members' briefing pack

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

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Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee

14 June 2022



Title	Homes for Ukraine Scheme
Purpose of the report	For the Committee to note the Council's role in the above scheme
Report Author	Steph Green, Housing Strategy and Policy Officer
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Corporate Priority	Community / Service Delivery
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: Note the Council's role in the Homes for Ukraine scheme
Reason for Recommendation	To help the current refugee crisis in Ukraine by assisting with the Governments delivery of the Homes for Ukraine scheme

1. Key issues

1.1 In February 2022, Spelthorne Borough Council approved a Refugee Scheme policy. This policy requests the Council to assess and examine the details of Refugee Schemes brought forward by the Home Office, for its impact on the local community, the Council's resources to support the scheme, and deliverability. Details of a new scheme to support the refugee crisis in Ukraine is given below.

1.2 The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched on 14 March 2022 by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Ukrainian nationals who were residents in Ukraine prior to 1 January 2022 and their immediate family may be sponsored to come to the UK as 'guests'. There is no cap to the scheme and is dependent on the capacity of sponsors who come forward. The scheme is a visa-based scheme.

1.3 Under the scheme, guests can live and work in the UK for up to 3 years and be able to access welfare benefits, healthcare, and employment.

1.4 Sponsors must provide accommodation for a minimum of six months and in return, can receive an optional 'thank you' payment of £350 per month for up to the first 12 months (per residential address and not per each guest). Sponsors are unable to charge rent¹.

1.5 Individual sponsors (and organisations) were able to register their interest from 14th March 2022 and the Home Office opened visa applications from 18th March 2022. Sponsors and guests agree to match themselves externally prior to making the visa application. Both parties must pass security checks.

1.6 Councils are expected to offer several support services:

- **Initial Reception** – Sponsors are expected to meet guests upon arrival or provide instructions on how to reach the accommodation. Due to proximity to

¹ Therefore a HMO license is not required

Heathrow Airport as a port of entry, LB Hillingdon Council have been asked to establish welcome arrangements to support short-term arrival needs. This includes immediate humanitarian assistance. From Sunday 20 March 2022, guests arriving were eligible for a free single onward journey via rail, bus, or coach.

- **Data Sharing** – Spelthorne Borough Council have direct access to DLUHC’s case-management system to see matched data for Spelthorne and submit confirmation of necessary sponsor checks.
- **Safeguarding Checks** – Councils have a safeguarding duty and must inspect sponsor accommodation once guests arrive. Once a visa application has been made, Councils must conduct an in-person visit to confirm that the accommodation is suitable and establish there are no serious welfare or safeguarding concerns. Councils are required to undertake basic DBS checks on all adults in the sponsor household. Where guests arriving include children or vulnerable adults, Councils must undertake enhanced DBS with barred lists checks on all adults in the sponsor household.
- **Interim Payment for Guest** – The Council should provide an interim payment of £200 per guest for subsistence costs² which does not need to be repaid by guests. Surrey County Council (SCC) have provided pre-paid cards which are being issued by Spelthorne Borough Council.
- **Provision of Education** – SCC are required to provide school places for children.
- **Service Referrals** – Councils should provide advice and make referrals to health services as appropriate.
- **Work and Benefits** – Councils should support guests to access the Jobcentre Plus for benefit assessments and employment advice.
- **Homelessness Assistance** – Where a relationship breaks down between a sponsor and guest and the guest becomes homeless or is threatened with homelessness, the Council’s statutory homelessness duty will apply.
- **Community Integration** – Councils must support the integration of Ukrainian families into the local community e.g. through community events, community champions, interfaith networks and provide access to translation services. Mutual support is being enabled between guests arriving in the borough of Spelthorne where they are happy to connect with other applicants of the scheme. The North East Surrey Family Support Team have recently set up weekly drop-in sessions at Ashford Youth Club providing a supportive environment for both guests and hosts to connect and get signposting information. The Family Support team are also recruiting two dedicated Ukrainian resettlement workers to provide more intensive support as families continue to arrive in the area.
- **Administering Payments to Sponsors** – sponsors will be eligible for an optional ‘thank you’ payment of £350 per month paid in arrears for up to the first 12 months. This is not released until property checks have been completed and the family has arrived³.

² Factored into the funding tariff. Councils will have discretion within the tariff to top-up guests with additional payments.

³ Funding for these payments will be provided, but it is expected that Council’s cover administration costs from the tariff including costs of fraud prevention.

2. Administering the Homes for Ukraine Scheme

- 2.1 Committee are asked to note that the scheme has opened, and individual residents have offered to sponsor Ukraine refugees. As of 26th May 2022, 61 guests have arrived across 25 properties. The Housing Options team are inspecting each property to ensure suitability and are carrying out a re-inspection once guests have arrived. Figures fluctuate slightly but we are currently expecting around 115 guests in total.
- 2.2 A process has been determined by each district and borough with SCC to administer the scheme. Housing Options are obtaining the host and guests details from the DLUHC portal. The team are then undertaking a property inspection to ensure suitability and safety. Following this, the team are initiating DBS checks via SCC's DBS system. Any safeguarding concerns are being flagged to SCC. After all host checks are successfully completed and uploaded to the DLUHC system, a subsequent visit is undertaken to confirm the guests have arrived and to issue family members with a £200 pre-paid card. If no concerns, the team are advising finance to issue the sponsor a monthly £350 payment (where opted for by the sponsor). The two dedicated Ukrainian resettlement workers appointed by the North East Surrey Family Support Team will assist guests with community integration, education, employment, benefit, and health care arrangements.
- 2.3 All Surrey district and boroughs are meeting fortnightly to share updates and good practice. A fortnightly wider immigration meeting hosted by SCC also provides updates across all refugee schemes. Funding of the scheme is being discussed between Surrey Finance Officers at the Surrey Treasurers meeting. Spelthorne Borough Council have set-up a working group of key officers, this includes a staff member who is a sponsor and is providing their perspective from the host's experience.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 For the first year, the Government is providing funding at a rate of £10,500 per person. Surrey Treasurers have agreed that a 10% contingency will be set aside for homelessness prevention with the remaining balance to be apportioned 50:50 between SCC and district and boroughs. Surrey Treasurers indicate an initial allocation to Spelthorne Borough Council of £486,000, this is to reflect the resource provision to support the families. Some of this funding will be used to appoint the two dedicated Ukrainian resettlement workers who will sit within the North East Family Support team. Surrey Treasurers are agreeing a template for capturing costs to enable grant claim submissions and to monitor expenditure to ensure no council is at a disadvantage. Government payments will be made in arrears every quarter from June 2022. We are currently awaiting guidance on funding for future years.
- 3.2 This funding is not ringfenced and has several conditions attached. It will match the tariff offered under the first year of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) schemes. However, Councils are not being asked to source initial accommodation under this scheme as it is being provided by the sponsor.
- 3.3 The sponsor thank you payments of £350 per month are administered by districts and borough councils which is covered by additional Government grant funding. We have made our first payments. However, Councils are expected to cover administrative costs within the tariff.

- 3.4 The Government is providing additional funding to upper tier Councils to provide education services under this scheme. The Department for Education will allocate funding per pupil bases at the following annual rates:
- Early years (ages 2-4) - £3,000
 - Primary (ages 5-11) - £6,850
 - Secondary (ages 11-18) - £8,755
- 3.5 Councils are expected to use the tariff to meet all associated costs for providing services and administering payments. The Government will consider claims for additional essential costs regarded as exceptional to normal expenditure.
- 3.6 Spelthorne Borough Council has set-up as a cost centre and associated budget codes to monitor expenditure.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 The Committee should note there is a second separate 'Ukraine Family Scheme'. Family members of British nationals, UK settled persons and certain others are permitted to come to or stay in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme. Applicants can extend their stay for up to 3 years and are able to work, study and claim benefits in the UK.
- 4.2 Whilst councils have not been instructed to provide support to applicants accessing this second scheme. It is still within the Council's interests to provide advice to Ukrainian refugees who approach the Council for support, to ensure accommodation is sustained and to prevent homelessness.

5. Risk Considerations

- 5.1 There is a risk of homelessness arising in cases where the relationship between host and guests breaks down. In this instance, the Council's statutory homelessness duty will apply. There are greater risks associated with the 'Ukraine Family Scheme' due to the relative lack of oversight. Whilst funding has been provided for the first year of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, future funding has not yet been advised so there is a longer-term risk around rehousing guests.
- 5.2 To mitigate these risks, the Housing Options team are arranging home visits as soon as possible to welcome the family upon arrival and to issue a £200 pre-paid card per guest. As noted, it was agreed at Surrey Treasurers that a 10% contingency be set aside for homelessness prevention for districts and boroughs. Wrap-around support is being provided by the North East Surrey Family Support Team to assist households with benefit applications, education, employment opportunities and ongoing support. If there are potential risks of eviction, these will be flagged to the Housing Options team who will negotiate with the host to sustain the accommodation arrangement. Furthermore, DLUHC have recently announced a rematching process whereby guests can be matched to a new sponsor in certain circumstances. If a local authority determines that it is not viable or safe for guests to stay where they are, guests can be rematched. In instances of early sponsorship breakdown, local authorities may be able to end a homelessness prevention or relief duty owed to a guest by facilitating a rematch, providing the placement and accommodation are suitable and there is a reasonable prospect of it continuing for at least 6 months.

6. Equality and Diversity

- 6.1 An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out and is provided in Appendix B. This assessment has not identified any significant impact on equalities, although Committee should note that the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty is an ongoing duty and not discharged through the completion of an assessment. The Options team will minimise any potential disproportionate impact through regular data monitoring and ongoing review of the scheme.

7. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 7.1 The proposed scheme itself does not have any impact on the Council's sustainability / climate change position.

8. Timetable for implementation

- 8.1 Spelthorne Borough Council is already liaising with the Home Office, DLUHC and SCC to support the scheme.

Background papers: See the Council's Refugee Scheme Policy.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Homes for Ukraine Scheme CEX Letter

Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment

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Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

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E: homelessnesspolicy@levellingup.gov.uk

Local Authority Chief Executives

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Date: 21 March 2022

Dear Local Authority Chief Executives,

**The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England)
Persons subject to Immigration Control (Housing Authority Accommodation
and Homelessness) (Amendment) Regulations 2022**

The UK government has announced the Ukraine Family Scheme on 4 March and Homes for Ukraine Scheme on 14 March for those fleeing Ukraine following the Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Information about the schemes can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine-and-ukrainian-nationals-in-ukraine-and-the-uk> and <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Immigration status and entitlements of people arriving under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Those who are currently arriving in the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme or Homes for Ukraine Scheme are being granted leave outside the rules.

People with leave outside the rules have the right to work and have access to public funds without the requirement to satisfy the habitual residency test. They will therefore have access to benefits and will be eligible for homelessness assistance and social housing.

The Home Office plans to update the Immigration Rules by the end of March to give those under the schemes limited leave to remain for an initial period of three years. These schemes provide the right to work and recourse to public funds, and access to benefits and services. We have introduced emergency secondary legislation (**The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) and Persons subject to Immigration Control (Housing Authority Accommodation and Homelessness) (Amendment) Regulations 2022**) to make these groups eligible for homelessness assistance and social housing following commencement.

This Statutory Instrument also exempts those fleeing Ukraine who are British Nationals, other persons not subject to immigration control with a right of abode in

the UK from the requirement to meet the habitual residence test when applying for these services.

These legislative changes have been made in parallel with changes to legislation regarding access to benefits and services.

Impact on homelessness and social housing

Local authorities will need to continue checking eligibility of anyone who presents as homeless in the usual way. However, the changes we have made through these Regulations will mean that people arriving under the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine are eligible for social housing and homelessness assistance, both now and after the Home Office update the Immigration Rules.

We have also waived the habitual residency test for British Nationals and those not subject to immigration control, so local authorities can immediately assess them as eligible for services.

The legislative changes will come into force on 22 March.

For further guidance to local authorities on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

Guidance

We will make updates to the Homelessness Code of Guidance and Social Housing Allocations Guidance in due course.

This is part of our commitment to ensure those fleeing the war in Ukraine are given access to appropriate support when they reach the UK. I recognise that the situation in Ukraine raises significant pressures for local authorities across a range of areas. The government is providing funding at a rate of £10,500 per person to councils to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. We will be monitoring the impact on local authorities and are considering how we can further support councils to ensure we are able to support those fleeing the war in Ukraine while managing pressures on local government.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Hobman

Director- Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

Equality Analysis

Directorate: Community Wellbeing Service Area: Housing Strategy & Policy	Lead Officer: Steph Green Date completed: 05 May 2022
Service / Function / Policy / Procedure to be assessed: Homes for Ukraine scheme	
Is this: New / Proposed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing/Review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing <input type="checkbox"/>	Review date: 12 months

Part A – Initial Equality Analysis to determine if a full Equality Analysis is required.

What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this service, function, policy or procedure?

The Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched 14th March 2022 by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family may be sponsored to come to the UK as 'guests'. Guests can live and work in the UK for up to 3 years and be able to access welfare benefits, healthcare and employment. Sponsors must provide accommodation for a minimum of 6 months and in return, can receive an optional 'thank you' payment of £350 per month for up to the first 12 months. Sponsors and guests agree to match themselves externally prior to making the visa application. Council's are expected to offer several support services which includes wra paround support for guests to help them integrate into communities and access local services. Council's also have a responsibility to inspect host properties for suitability and exercise a safeguarding duty through DBS checks and home visits once guests arrive.

Please indicate its relevance to any of the equality duties (below) by selecting Yes or No?

	Yes	No
Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment	✓	
Advancing equality of opportunity	✓	
Fostering good community relations	✓	

If not relevant to any of the three equality duties and this is agreed by your Head of Service, the Equality Analysis is now complete - please send a copy to **NAMED OFFICER**. **If relevant**, a Full Equality Analysis will need to be undertaken (PART B below).

PART B: Full Equality Analysis

Step 1 – Identifying outcomes and delivery mechanisms (in relation to what you are assessing)

What outcomes are sought and for whom?	<p>The main outcome of this scheme is to provide a safe haven to these individuals and their families where they can integrate into the local community and build support networks to lead healthy and happy lives.</p> <p>Affected groups will include (not exhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adults (and associated dependants) who are eligible for the Homes for Ukraine scheme; • ‘Hosts’ involved in sourcing and providing suitable accommodation; • North East Surrey Family Support Team and other partners involved in the delivery of advice and support services.
Are there any associated policies, functions, services or procedures?	Refugee Scheme Policy (approved by the Council Feb 2022) and Government guidance regularly updated and to be adhered to - https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils
If partners (including external partners) are involved in delivering the service, who are they?	<p>Home Office and DLUHC are rolling out the visa based scheme. Surrey County Council are liaising with all Surrey district and boroughs.</p> <p>Partners involved in the delivery of advice and support services e.g. North East Surrey Family Support Team, Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice, DWP, foodbanks, voluntary and community faith groups [not exhaustive].</p>

Step 2 – What does the information you have collected, or that you have available, tell you?

What evidence/data already exists about the service and its users? (in terms of its impact on the ‘equality strands’, i.e. race, disability, gender, gender identity, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, maternity/pregnancy, marriage/civil partnership and other socially excluded communities or groups) and **what does the data tell you?** e.g. are there any significant gaps?

Homes for Ukraine scheme context

The Government’s data sharing system ‘Foundry’ does not display all information on the several equality strands. There is some data collected on age, gender and pregnancy. As of 13th May 2022, 51 female guests and 22 male guests are recorded with 19 as ‘unspecified’. So far, two guests have arrived as pregnant. The age of guests are outlined in the table below.

Age Group	Number of guests
0-17	27
18- 29	18
30-39	21
40-49	14
50-59	4
60-69	2
70+	1
Unspecified	5
Total:	92

It is worth noting that the Government's system may not be entirely accurate as some of the data is labelled as 'unspecified'. Anecdotally, the Council is aware that many guests who have arrived so far have no physical disabilities but many have experienced trauma so are likely to face mental health issues. Whilst the council is unsure of the guests religion, many Ukrainians are Christian with up to two thirds of Ukraine's population identifying as Orthodox.

General Spelthorne context

Almost half of Surrey's 20 most deprived super output areas are in Spelthorne. Three are in the ward of Stanwell North, two in Ashford North and Stanwell South and one in each of Ashford East and Sunbury Common. Spelthorne has the highest number of lone parent families and the highest level of child poverty in Surrey; it also has the highest under-18 conception rate in the county. That said, residents are largely healthy, with life expectancy for both males and females slightly above the national average.

Although the number of VAT and/or PAYE-registered business has fallen slightly over the past four years, Spelthorne has a low rate of unemployment: 1.4% of those economically active aged 16 to 64, compared to the South East (2.2%) and UK as a whole (3.5%). Heathrow Airport is a significant local employer, with 8.3% of Spelthorne's working population employed there. Significantly, 21.5% of those in work in Stanwell North are in low level employment compared to an average of 11.6% in Surrey. Average wages are slightly above regional averages at £630 per week for full-time employees.

Whilst house prices remain well above the national average, most residents are owner-occupiers (73%), followed by private rented (13%) and social rented (12%).

Gender / gender identity

Census data from 2011 shows that 50.5% of residents in Spelthorne were female, with the remaining 49.5% being male. There is no data known to be held in relation of other gender identities.

Source: ONS Census, 2011 - neighbourhood statistics for residents aged 16 to 74

A White Paper published in December 2018 (Help shape our future: the 2021 Census of population and housing in England and Wales) sets out the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) recommendations for what the census should contain and how it should operate. The White Paper

recommends that the census in 2021 includes a question about gender identity, asking respondents whether their gender is the same as the sex they were registered as at birth. The question will be separate from the question about sex (i.e., whether the respondent is male or female), which will be phrased in the same way as previous years. There is currently no official data about the size of the transgender population (the word 'transgender' is used here to describe people whose gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth). The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has said that there may be 200,000 to 500,000 transgender people in the UK, but stresses that we don't know the true population because of the lack of robust data. The ONS has identified user need for official estimates in order to support policy-making and monitor equality duties.

Source: <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8531>

Age

Spelthorne has a slightly lower population of under-30s (34%) compared to the rest of the country (37%), and a slightly higher population of 30-69 year olds (42%) compared with the UK average of (40%), The number of 70+ is 23%, which is broadly in line with the rest of the UK (24%).

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/local-data/constituency-statistics-population-by-age/>

Ethnicity

The ethnic make-up of Spelthorne is largely in line with the UK average, although we have more residents who identify as Asian and fewer residents who identify as Black than the national average.

Ethnic group	Spelthorne		Region	UK
	Number	%	%	%
White	83,455	87.3%	90.7%	87.2%
Mixed	2,382	2.5%	1.9%	2.0%
Asian	7,295	7.6%	5.2%	6.9%
Black	1,545	1.6%	1.6%	3.0%
Other	921	1.0%	0.6%	0.9%
Total	95,598	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/home-affairs/communities/demography/constituency-statistics-ethnicity/>

Disability

As of July 2019 there were around 2,020 PIP claimants in Spelthorne constituency. In comparison, there was an average of 2,500 claimants per constituency across the South East. Within Spelthorne, psychiatric disorders were the most common reason for claiming PIP. They accounted for 37% of awards, compared to 36% in Great Britain. 'Psychiatric disorders' include anxiety and depression, learning disabilities and autism. The second most common reason for awards was musculoskeletal disease (general), which accounted for 17% of awards within the constituency and 21% in Great Britain. Musculoskeletal disease (general) includes osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis and chronic pain syndromes.

Source:

<http://data.parliament.uk/resources/constituencystatistics/personal%20independence%20payment/PIP%20claimants%20in%20Spelthorne.pdf>

Religion

Residents of Spelthorne predominately identify themselves as either Christian or having no religion. There is a smaller Muslim population compared with the national average, but a larger Hindu and Sikh population.

	Constituency		Region	UK
	Number	%	%	%
Has religion	67,392	70.5%	65.0%	66.7%
of which				
Christian	60,954	63.8%	59.8%	58.8%
Muslim	1,808	1.9%	2.3%	4.5%
Hindu	2,332	2.4%	1.1%	1.4%
Buddhist	420	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Jewish	206	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
Sikh	1,325	1.4%	0.6%	0.7%
Other	347	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
No religion	21,511	22.5%	27.7%	26.1%
Not stated	6,695	7.0%	7.4%	7.2%

Source: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/home-affairs/communities/constituency-data-religion/>

Sexual orientation

There is no accurate dataset which can be used to reflect solely Spelthorne. The White Paper recommends asking a new question about sexual orientation. The ONS has identified a user need for better data on sexual orientation – particularly for small areas – to inform policy-making and service provision, as well as monitoring equality duties. The ONS has previously used the Annual Population Survey (APS) to estimate the size of the lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) population in the UK. According to these estimates, just over 1 million people identified as LGB in 2016 (around 2% of the population). However, the sample population used in the APS isn't big enough to provide robust estimates of the LGB population in smaller areas.

Source: <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8531>

Marriage / Civil Partnership

More people in Spelthorne are married compared to the rest of England and Wales, and fewer people identify as single.

Marital Status	Spelthorne		England and Wales	
All usual residents aged 16+	78,089		45,496,780	
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership)	24,562	31%	15,730,275	35%
Married	38,984	50%	21,196,684	47%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership	153	0%	104,942	0%

Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership)	2,042	3%	1,195,882	3%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	6,870	9%	4,099,330	9%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership	5,478	7%	3,169,667	7%

Has there been any consultation with, or input from, customers / service users or other stakeholders? If so, with whom, how were they consulted and what did they say? If you haven't consulted yet and are intending to do so, please list which specific groups or communities you are going to consult with and when.

None

Are there any complaints, compliments, satisfaction surveys or customer feedback that could help inform this assessment? If yes, what do these tell you?

None

Step 3 – Identifying the negative impact.

a. Is there any negative impact on individuals or groups in the community?

Barriers:

What are the potential or known barriers/impacts for the different 'equality strands' set out below? Consider:

- **Where** you provide your service, e.g. the facilities/premises;
- **Who** provides it, e.g. are staff trained and representative of the local population/users?
- **How** it is provided, e.g. do people come to you or do you go to them? Do any rules or requirements prevent certain people accessing the service?
- **When** it is provided, e.g. opening hours?
- **What** is provided, e.g. does the service meet everyone's needs? How do you know?

* Some barriers are justified, e.g. for health or safety reasons, or might actually be designed to promote equality, e.g. single sex swimming/exercise sessions, or cannot be removed without excessive cost. If you believe any of the barriers identified to be justified then please indicate which they are and why.

Solutions:

What can be done to minimise or remove these barriers to make sure everyone has equal access to the service or to reduce adverse impact?
Consider:

- Other arrangements that can be made to ensure people's diverse needs are met;
- How your actions might help to promote good relations between communities;
- How you might prevent any unintentional future discrimination.

Equality Themes	Barriers/Impacts identified	Solutions (ways in which you could mitigate the impact)
Age (including children, young people and older people)	<p>Dependents may be in need of language support.</p> <p>Many children will also need support to cope with parental separation, parental death, and cope with some household members who may have mental health issues.</p>	<p>The North East Surrey Family Support Team will assist households with applying to local schools / seek English tutoring. Tier 1 councils have been provided with funding to support school places.</p> <p>The North East Surrey Family Support Team will work with the family as a unit and the children individually to understand and address support needs. The North East Surrey Family Support Team will make appropriate referrals to the appropriate organization to support family recovery. Safeguarding of children is a priority.</p>
Disability (including carers)	Anecdotally we know that physically disabled people accessing settled accommodation have much more limited options available to them.	Hosts and guests match externally prior to arrival, so it is the presumption a property would not be offered if it was unsuitable. However, where barriers may occur, the Council will work with the host and guest to identify if the property can be adapted to suit need e.g. via the council's Disabled Facilities Grant. Furthermore, the Council inspects the suitability of all properties prior to guests arriving.
Gender (men and women)	Where there are instances of lone men requesting to host lone females under the scheme, there could be a safeguarding concern.	The Council will investigate the suitability of this arrangement as part of a safeguarding duty. The Home Office carry out security checks on all hosts and DBS checks are undertaken before visas are issued. Furthermore, The North Surrey Family Support Team will make appropriate referrals to the

		appropriate organization to support individuals. Safeguarding of vulnerable adults is a priority.
Race (including Gypsies & Travellers and Asylum Seekers)	No negative impacts have been identified.	The North East Surrey Family Support team are working to integrate guests into the community and have organised a weekly drop-in support group.
Religion or belief (including people of no religion or belief)	No negative impacts have been identified.	Many Ukrainians identify as Christian. The North East Surrey Family Support team are helping guests connect with local faith groups.
Gender Re-assignment (those that are going through transition: male to female or female to male)	No negative impacts have been identified.	N/A
Pregnancy and Maternity	No negative impacts have been identified.	N/A
Sexual orientation (including gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual)	No negative impacts have been identified.	N/A

Step 4 – Changes or mitigating actions proposed or adopted

Having undertaken the assessment are there any changes necessary to the existing service, policy, function or procedure? What changes or mitigating actions are proposed?

No changes required.

Step 5 – Monitoring

How are you going to monitor the existing service, function, policy or procedure ?

The service will be operationally monitored by the council's Housing Options team and the North East Surrey Family Support team. The service will be strategically monitored by Spelthorne Borough Council's Strategic Housing Group who meet monthly.

Part C - Action Plan

Barrier/s or improvement/s identified	Action Required	Lead Officer	Timescale
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n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
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Equality Analysis approved by:

Group Head:	DocuSigned by: <i>Karen Sinclair</i> BB3EBC3BDA2B47D...	Date: 24 May 2022 2:28 PM BST
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Procurement of Refuse collection & Street cleansing vehicles

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing note is to inform all Councillors of the report being submitted to Corporate Policy & Resources Committee on 11 July 2022 related to a procurement exercise for the lease & purchase of Waste & Street Cleansing vehicles.

Background

Spelthorne owns and leases a fleet of waste & cleansing vehicles all of which are due for replacement in 2023. The fleet comprises of: -

- 14 Waste collection RCVs (Refuse Collection Vehicle) (leased until June 2023)
- 4 Mechanical sweeping vehicles (leased until June 2023)
- 3 Food collection vehicles (owned, purchased 2011 & 2017)
- 1 Food collection 7.5T RCV (Refuse Collection Vehicle)

In October 2020 Spelthorne declared a Climate Change Emergency and adopted a carbon neutral target. This created the need across the Council for all strategic decisions, budgets, and approaches to decisions to be aligned with the goal of achieving a shift to carbon neutrality.

As part of this commitment Spelthorne committed to a review of the refuse collection fleet and aspired to convert to electric or hydrogen vehicles for 50% of the refuse fleet, depending on the best technology available. With further conversions taking place as and when vehicles are replaced.

Next Steps

Stage 1-The recommendation of the report is to commence a procurement exercise through the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO) to purchase and lease waste & street cleansing vehicles and associated services.

The procurement exercise will require tenderers to provide full costs, benefits, and practicalities for a range of vehicles which are powered by Diesel and Electric. Hydrogen is not an option for Spelthorne now as the infrastructure is not available. At the tender evaluation stage, it will be possible to provide clearer financial implications for the budget year 2023/2024 and beyond. The switch to electric would create an impact on the Councils' budget for 23/24 & beyond.

Stage 2- A full evaluation of the tender submissions will be carried out by officers and a further report will then be submitted to full Council in October 2022 (subject to committee timetables) providing all vehicle options, costs, and availability so that members are then able to make fully informed decisions on the findings, options, and recommendations for contract award.

The stage 2 report will also outline the implications associated with moving any of the fleet vehicles to a new technology. The pros & cons will have to be given full consideration before any decisions are made to ensure that if members do decide to opt for alternative fueled vehicles we are able continue to manage and deliver this key for service for residents of the borough without creating an impact on other aspects associated with Climate change.

Jackie Taylor

Group Head of Neighbourhood Services

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