

15th March 2022

Mark Smith
Chief Executive
Chippenham Town Council
Via email only

Dear Mark,

Re: Ukraine

Your letter dated 2nd March 2022 to our Chief Executive has been passed to me as he is currently on annual leave. Apologies for the delay in responding to you, we have been waiting for information from the Government with regards to this matter.

As you will be aware the Government have now launched the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme.

The government scheme will offer a route to those who want to come to the UK who have someone willing to provide them with a home. Individuals, charities, community groups and businesses can volunteer accommodation. Sponsors can provide accommodation for as long as they are able but there is a minimum expectation of six months.

People interested can record their interest at www.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine to receive updates and more information on how to apply. On Friday 18th March 2022, Phase One of the visa application route will open for sponsors and named contacts to apply to the scheme. Sponsors can be of any nationality, with any immigration status provided they have at least six months' leave to remain within the UK. In the first phase of the scheme sponsors will need to have a named person whom they wish to sponsor. This could be a friend, someone they are already connected with, or it could be someone they have been linked with by a charity, faith group or other organisation. Sponsors need to provide accommodation for a minimum of six months. The government will provide an optional payment of £350 per month for up to 12 months for those offering accommodation.

The government has said it will provide funding at a rate of £10,500 per person to local authorities, with an additional top-up for child education, to enable them to provide much wider support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities. Local authorities will also provide clear messaging on support for the Ukraine placed on Local Authority websites, and communication and guidance to schools and other education providers regarding support to children and young people.

Further details will be shared shortly by central government.

At this time, we are exploring housing options for individuals and their families leaving Ukraine in conjunction with central government and the Home Office guidance. We would urge residents of Chippenham and members of the Town Council to access the government guidance and websites as to how they may be able to support individuals and families fleeing Ukraine.

We will continue to share developments with partners and residents as this situation continues to evolve.

Best wishes



Lucy Townsend
Corporate Director People (DCS)