

Winchester City Councillor Report

May 2022

1. Homes for Ukraine update

Hampshire County Council continues to work with Winchester City Council and key local partners to enable the provision of immediate support and assistance to Ukrainians arriving in Hampshire under the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. The focus remains on conducting necessary safeguarding and wellbeing checks via home visits, distribution of financial support, in collaboration with public sector partners, and ensuring key information is shared with guests and sponsors efficiently.

The latest available figures for visas issued are that as of 3 May 2022, 45,126 visas have been issued for England, of which 1,685 are for Hampshire.

In addition to the other support available, an initial fund of £100,000 has been made available by the County Council for local community and voluntary organisations working to help Ukrainian families to apply for financial support through the Leader's Community Grants - details at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/leaders-community-grants>

Applications will be considered from Parish and Town Councils and local branches of national charities (where the support being provided is delivered specifically in Hampshire) and may be for any amount up to £5,000. Applications will be assessed to ensure that the proposals are appropriate, that necessary levels of safeguarding are in place and that the activity does not unnecessarily duplicate support which is already provided through other channels.

Further details are available by following the link above or by contacting ccbsgrants@hants.gov.uk.

Useful information for anyone welcoming Ukrainian guests can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>.

Hampshire County Council has a a useful webpage at www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine which is being regularly updated This includes a new Welcome Guide webpage <https://www.hants.gov.uk/ukraine/guests/welcome-guide>

2. Elections

The local elections took place on 5th May. Due to the purdah rules, no major decisions were permitted to be made by Winchester City Council during the election campaign, so this report is by necessity rather short.

Following the elections, the Liberal Democrats remain in control of the council, with the make up of the council comprising 27 Liberal Democrats, 15 Conservatives, 2 independents and one Green Party councillor.

Locally, Neil Bolton was elected to replace Laurence Ruffell who has retired from the council.

Hugh Lumby Neil Bolton