

# Urgent Portfolio Holder Decision

## Application for settlement funding for Ukrainian refugees

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>10 May 2023</b>
	<b>Signed</b>

### 1. Decision taken

- 1.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property approves the submission of an application to the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme – European Social Fund – FAST-CARE
- 1.2 Authorises the Strategic Director for People to enter into a grant agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for funding from FAST-CARE on terms and conditions acceptable to the Strategic Director for Resources

### 2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The DWP has invited the County Council, along with Coventry City Council and other Local Authorities to apply for funding to support Priority Axis 5 of the Operational Programme 'Promoting the Socio-economic Integration of Third Country Nationals (FAST-CARE)'. The funding will support the facilitation of the reception, welcoming and integration of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- 2.2 Pursuant to the Constitution of Warwickshire County Council any bid for funding that exceeds £250,000 or would commit the council to funding greater than £50,000 that cannot be met from service budget requires the approval of the relevant Portfolio Holder. The Council will be applying for funding of £1,343,832.
- 2.3 The deadline to apply for funding is 15 May 2023, and consequently this is a request for an urgent decision, pursuant to Standing Order 18 of the Constitution on the grounds that the decision cannot reasonably be deferred, and any delay caused by call-in would prejudice the public interest.

### 3. Background information

- 3.1 Priority Axis 5 aims to address the migratory challenges resulting from the military aggression by the Russian Federation in Ukraine and to support the socio-economic

integration of third country nationals. It will help to facilitate the reception, relief and welcome of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

- 3.2 In June 2022, as part of its response to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the European Commission adopted the FAST-CARE package. This builds on the Commission's Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) package allowing Member States and regions to provide emergency support to people fleeing from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 3.3 FAST-CARE makes provision for Member States, regional and local authorities and partners to address the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, including the arrival across Europe of around 8 million refugees from Ukraine. It aims to provide additional, flexible support where it is most needed, for those welcoming and integrating displaced people – including Member States, local authorities, and civil society organisations. FAST-CARE basic needs and support measures apply to adults and to children under 18 years of age.
- 3.4 The Managing Authority (DwP) has considered the provisions available through FAST-CARE in the context of the objectives and implementation of the existing Operational Programme; and the unexpected challenges arising from the invasion, at a time when we have been engaged in the recovery of the UK economy and society after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 This Priority Axis aims to promote the socio-economic integration of third country nationals fleeing the war in Ukraine, with the European Social Fund (ESF). The operations are dedicated to addressing migratory challenges as a result of the military aggression by the Russian Federation.
- 3.6 The funding application is for the welcome and integration of Ukrainian nationals between 24 February 2022 and 31 August 2022, therefore the funding is of a retroactive nature
- 3.7 Warwickshire County Council with the support of the District and Borough Councils are supporting Ukrainian nationals to settle in Warwickshire. The funding we hope to apply for is for Ukrainian nationals who arrived in Warwickshire between 24 February 2022 and 31 August 2022 and the £1,343,832 has been calculated on the basis of £84 per week per person.
- 3.8 Retroactive costs can be applied to the activities in the assistance and support of people fleeing the war in Ukraine as per examples below but is not limited to:
  - providing food, basic material assistance, accommodation, transport, immediate healthcare, information, and translation services
  - welcome and orientation measures such as accommodation, and accommodation and staff costs for running facilities and integration activities
  - healthcare, psychological care, community-based support, childcare, social housing, access to the labour market, education, and training

This list is not exhaustive.

## 4. Financial implications

- 4.1 Payment will be made on a Flat Rate unit cost basis and match funding is not applicable for this bid, funding can be delivered using 100% ESF.
- 4.2 Costs eligible for support can relate to adults and children under the age of 18.
- 4.3 Once paid, there are no special conditions or restrictions applied to how the ESF granted under this bid is spent. The ESF Managing Authority may be in a position to provide additional funding for those who have arrived from September 2022 onwards. This will be confirmed at a later date.
- 4.4 This application is for retrospective funding.

## 5. Environmental implications

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

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<b>Assistant Director</b>	John Coleman – Assistant Director Children & Families
<b>Strategic Director</b>	Nigel Minns - Strategic Director for People
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Peter Butlin Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	Yes
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

## List of background papers

- European Social Fund online application proposal guidance
- Consent to urgent decision from Cllr Yousef Dahmash
- Consent to urgent decision from Cllr Clare Golby

## Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Nic Vine

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Joanna Kemp

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Dahmash and Golby as Chairs of relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Group Leaders – Cllrs Seccombe, Roodhouse, Holland and Chilvers

Local Member(s): n/a