

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 3rd February 2026

REPORT TO COUNCIL

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Report of: Strategic Director People and Communities

Title: Amendment to Grants Panel Terms of Reference – Ukrainian Community Grants

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report seeks approval to make an amendment to the Exeter City Grants Programme Terms of Reference, (Appendix A with recommended amendments), enabling the City Grants Panel to consider and approve grant funding for Ukrainian community activity as part of the coordinated support model, which also includes a Ukraine Refugee Community Connecting contract. The intention is to integrate this workstream into the existing City Grants governance framework while maintaining transparency, accountability, and alignment with Council priorities.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That Council approve an amendment to the Grants Panel Terms of Reference to formally include authority for the Panel to make decisions on community grants allocated through the Ukrainian Refugee Support scheme, funded through Homes for Ukraine tariff income. The Ukrainian community activity grants follow the same governance principles, decision making processes, transparency standards and evaluation requirements as those outlined for the City Grant Fund, with modest variations where required to meet the specialised needs of Ukrainian communities.

2.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Director of People & Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, to agree future minor amendments to the Grants Panel Terms of Reference where such amendments are administrative in nature, support operational efficiency, or ensure continued alignment with national guidance or funding requirements for Ukrainian support.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Homes for Ukraine programme has generated dedicated funding intended to support integration, wellbeing, employment readiness, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) access, youth engagement and community led activity for Ukrainians living in Exeter. A coordinated delivery model including a targeted grants programme has

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been agreed. Integrating the approval mechanism for these grants within the existing City Grants Panel ensures:

- Consistency in governance and transparency
- Efficient use of officer resource
- Continuity with established assessment and decision making processes
- Alignment with Council priorities such as inequality reduction, wellbeing, digital inclusion and community participation

3.2 This extension maintains the integrity of the City Grants Programme while enabling effective and timely deployment of external funding ring-fenced for Ukrainian community support.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources:

4.1 There are no additional financial implications for the General Fund. All Ukrainian community activity grants will be funded from Homes for Ukraine tariff income. Administration will be absorbed within existing Communities Team resource.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 There are no additional financial implications for Council to consider.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The amendment remains within the Council's existing powers to establish and delegate grant decision making arrangements. Alignment with the Grants Panel Terms of Reference ensures decisions continue to be made in accordance with transparent, proportionate and accountable processes.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 The Monitoring Officer has no additional comments.

8. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

8.1 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because: this paper only refers to the mechanism by which grant decision will be made and the grant scheme has already been agreed.

9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

9.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

10. Report details:

10.1 The scheme addresses identified significant need for targeted community led support for Ukrainian guests in Exeter, including ESOL, employment readiness, wellbeing, youth activities and community integration. A grants programme of £150,000 to April 2027 is proposed. Integrating these grants within the City Grants Panel structure ensures consistency with:

- Existing governance model

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- Assessment and scoring criteria
- Panel composition and conflict of interest provisions
- Publication of minutes and transparent decision making

While Ukrainian grants may require specialised advisory input (e.g., the Ukraine Community Connector), decisions will follow the same structure as the City Grant Fund.

11. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

11.1 The proposal supports Corporate Plan objectives relating to inclusion, wellbeing, community empowerment and reducing inequalities.

12. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

12.1 Fragmented or inconsistent decision making may occur if a separate process is created. This is mitigated by integration into the existing Grants Panel structure ensures coherence, consistency and transparency.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 Establish a separate panel – **not recommended** due to duplication, resource intensity and risk of inconsistency.

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

List of Appendices:

- Appendix A: City Grants Terms of Reference with proposed amendments