



Meeting: Full Council

(Additional Item to be included in the Council Summons)

Date: 16 March 2022

Report Author: Clerk to the Council

Ukrainian Crisis

Introduction

1. This report considers ways in which the Council could support local charities who are providing sponsorship and support to refugees displaced by the crisis in Ukraine and are arriving in Cwmbran.

Background

2. Following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia many agencies are providing aid and support. Many communities are keen to lend support to Ukrainians affected by the conflict by making donations - whether monetary or by donating items such as food, blankets, and sanitary items. Many councils are playing a key role in the coordination of that support.

Key Issues

3. As the tier of government most closely connected to the communities it represents, local councils are well placed to offer support either through direct action or through sign posting to registered charities.
4. It is therefore proposed that the Council considers offering support to local charities who are providing sponsorship and support to those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine and are arriving in Cwmbran. This support could be in the form of signposting to agencies or direct financial support to local charities.

Financial Implications

5. The Council could consider setting the use of finance from Code I13 (Regeneration Projects) to support local charities in the way described above.
6. A report to the Council's Policy & Finance Committee of 28 February 2022 confirms that £24,600 was available within this code as of 31 December 2021.

Links to Corporate Objectives

7. The proposal would help deliver a resilient Cwmbran (with the capacity to adapt to change), a more equal Cwmbran (which supports people regardless of their background and circumstances), a Cwmbran of cohesive communities and a globally responsible Cwmbran.



Staffing Implications

8. There are no direct staffing implications. Support would be provided within existing resources.

Risk Management Implications

9. Direct action in the manner described would help meet the Council's well-being obligations, helping to reduce the risk of not doing so from High to Medium.

Legal Implications

10. This project can be delivered using the power of well-being (Local Government Act 2000)
11. The Act gives the Council a wide-ranging discretionary power to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of their area and persons within that area, or either of those.
12. Any publicity for these arrangements would need to have regard to the forthcoming Pre-election period which commences on 18 March 2022.

Recommendation

13. It is **recommended** that:
 - (1) the Council provides support to local charities who are providing sponsorship and support to those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine and are arriving in Cwmbran in the form of signposting to relevant agencies.
 - (2) the Council allocates up to £10,000 to provide direct financial support to local charities who are providing sponsorship and support to those displaced by the crisis in Ukraine and are arriving in Cwmbran.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Jones', is written on a light blue background.