



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, THE BUCKINGHAM CENTRE,
VERNEY CLOSE, BUCKINGHAM MK18 1JP

Telephone/Fax: (01280) 816 426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Mr P. Hodson

Wednesday, 16 March 2022

Councillors,

You are summoned to an Extra Ordinary meeting of the **Full Council** of Buckingham Town Council to be held on Monday 21st March at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Please note that the meeting will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Orders 3.e and 3.f, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes. Members of the public can attend the meeting in person. The Council is trialling the use of video conferencing to enable the public and guests to address Council meetings virtually. If you would like to address the meeting in this way, please email committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or call 01280 816426 for details.

The meeting can be watched live on the Town Council's YouTube channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC89BUTwVpjAOEIdSlfcZC9Q/>

Mr P. Hodson
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive and accept apologies from members.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.



Twinned with Mouvaux, France; Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany

Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't. All Committee documents can be found on the Buckingham Town Council's website. Alternatively, the Clerk send you a copy of any minutes, reports or other information. To do this, send a request using the contact details set out above.

3. Ukrainian Refugees

To receive and discuss a verbal update from the Mayor, Councillor Margaret Gateley, and the Town Clerk.

To receive and discuss a written report from the Town Clerk.

**BTC/128/21
Appendix A**

4. Chair's Announcements

5. Date of the next meetings:

Informal meeting 28th March 2022

Full Council 28th March 2022

Special meeting 9th May 2022

Attendees are encouraged to undertake a lateral flow test within 24 hours prior to attendance of any Council meeting. Consideration should be given to the wearing of face coverings to reduce the risk to individuals and others.

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Buckingham Town Council
Full Council
Monday 21st March 2022

Contact Officer: Paul Hodson, Town Clerk

Ukraine Response

1. Recommendations

1.1. It is recommended:

- 1.1.1. For officers and Councillors to be fully involved any discussions about responses to the situation and support for refugees.
- 1.1.2. For the Town Clerk to provide free use of Council premises where this is possible, following discussion with the Mayor, where this would support planning for or provision of support for Ukrainian refugees, up to the Interim Meeting of the Council to be held on 9th May 2022.
- 1.1.3. For up to £4,000 of the Council's Future Planning budget 132 4500 to be used to fund immediate expenses to arrange for support for refugees if needed. For such funding decisions to be delegated to the Town Clerk to make in liaison with the Mayor.
- 1.1.4. For the Town Council to consider any further responses during the Interim Meeting of the Council scheduled for 9th May 2022.
- 1.1.5. For Members to consider any other appropriate responses.

2. Current Buckingham Response

- 2.1. A range of support has already been provided from Buckingham for those in Ukraine. This includes Buckingham University collaborating with the Buckingham School to collect and deliver two huge collections of items for the Ukrainian Association in Luton.
- 2.2. The Council has received a range of suggestions from residents for ways to support Ukrainian refugees who may come to the UK and particularly to Buckingham. There are clearly a significant number of residents looking to provide support to Ukrainians in the most appropriate ways.

3. 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme

- 3.1. Councillor Steve Bowles, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, has written to town and parish councils regarding the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The letter is attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2. In addition, Buckinghamshire Council are working with other councils, the Local Government Association and the Government to plan for various scenarios of the types and numbers of refugees who may require support. Buckinghamshire Council will look to coordinate potential accommodation, education, health, safeguarding and other issues.
- 3.3. As soon as there is any information about potential refugees to be placed in or near Buckingham, and any clarity about their likely needs, this will be shared as appropriate.

4. National Association of Local Councils Guidance

- 4.1. The National Association of Local Councils has provided an update which has been circulated to Members with this report. (This cannot be published because the information belongs to NALC).

5. Proposed Approach

- 5.1. At the time of writing, it is too early to know how many refugees will need support and what that support might look like. For now, it is suggested that the Council agrees to be supportive and puts a mechanism in place to ensure the Council can quickly respond to any needs that may become apparent.

**Steve Bowles**

Cabinet Member for Communities
Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

steve.bowles@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

To Town and Parish Councils

15 March 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I wanted to write to you to bring you up to date on the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme announced by the Government yesterday. I'm sure that within your communities, there are people who've asked about this and who may have expressed a desire to help and to take part. This is the scheme being launched by the Government to allow Ukrainians with no family ties to the UK to be sponsored by individuals or organisations who can offer them a home such as a spare room or unoccupied residential self-contained unit.

Yesterday the website was launched by the Government which accepts expressions of interest from those who may be in a position to offer accommodation to people from Ukraine fleeing the conflict. The Council also received a letter from Michael Gove last night confirming the scheme and providing some more details.

These are as follows:

- Those who are interested in offering accommodation can register on the 'Homes for Ukraine' website – www.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine
- The letter confirms that there will be a payment of £350 per month to householders taking in refugees.
- In addition, there will be a payment to councils of £10,500 per person in order to support the extra range and volume of services that will be required. This will include vetting of applicants to house refugees, education and social care for both the elderly

and young. We are urgently seeking clarification about this funding – for example it is not clear whether it also needs to fund NHS services, what period the funding is intended to cover, how to access it etc.

- The letter also confirms that the £350 payment will be tax free and not affect eligibility for benefits. We are confirming that this includes issues such as the single occupancy discount for Council Tax.

In addition to this scheme, the Council has also formed a local strategic partnership so we can be in the best possible position across the whole of Buckinghamshire to co-ordinate a strong response to whatever scenario presents. It means we have representatives from accommodation, education, health, safeguarding and other services all aligned to prepare for and support any arrivals as best we can.

I wanted to provide you with as much detail as we have at this point in time, and more communication will follow. For now, it's about channelling local and individual offers to the government website and making sure you all have the information you need such as the payment schemes, if you are asked more about this locally.

I hope this is a useful update and I will write again as these plans unfold. Thank you for your ongoing support and the important part you and your local communities play in responding to such crises.

Yours,

Steve Bowles

Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet Member for Communities