



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council Spring 2022

Homes for Ukraine scheme – what the council is doing to help

We have all been deeply moved by the plight of people in Ukraine – this is evident from the outpouring of support from our communities, alongside the work that we at the council are doing. We have committed to working with the British Government to welcome Ukrainian people to make new lives in Buckinghamshire over the coming months and years.

We have formed a local strategic partnership with representatives from across the community, education, health, safeguarding and other services, all aligned to support any arrivals as best we can.

We have produced welcome packs for both sponsors and guests which provide them with the information we think they will need – contact details, information about settling into life in the UK, support services and detailed information about the local area.

To support the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we have set up an internal team using existing staff who are handling the housing, safeguarding and the DBS checks for sponsors who have found guests they would like to come and stay with them. We do need to stress that we are not responsible for the visa application itself, or for matching sponsors with Ukrainian families. And we can also undertake housing checks for people who have matched with someone.

We have a lot of information about how we are supporting the Homes for Ukraine on our website at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/helping-hand-for-ukraine/share-your-home-with-a-refugee/>

And we have a dedicated email address that people can use if they need to contact the Ukraine support team at the Council - ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

A Helping Hand for Ukraine - what you can do to help Ukrainian refugees

We have a dedicated area on our website for anyone who would like to know more about how they can help/get involved – check out [‘Helping Hand for Ukraine’](#).

As part of this information, we have set up an online pledge form where people can offer supplies, translations and toys, among other things.

We'd also love your help with:

- promoting the Heart of Bucks campaign
<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/helping-hand-ukraine> - the money raised through the Ukraine Crisis Fund will go directly towards helping people who've fled their homes and arrived here in Bucks.
- encouraging people to sign up on the [government website](#) to register interest, and again when they have matched with a Ukrainian.
- promoting the Bucks online directory to any community groups in your area
- <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>
 - encouraging community groups to stagger support offer i.e. not all in first week but spread over number of months.
 - supporting any sponsors and refugee families in your area, where you can.

Support with food, bills and finances – Helping Hand

Our Helping Hand team are available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

Our team can help if you – or someone you know:

- are struggling to afford food
- cannot keep on top of your bills
- are in debt
- are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

Find out more about our Helping Hand team and how they can [support with food, bills and finances](#)

Care advice Buckinghamshire website

We have a dedicated website that helps with finding information, support and care for adults, their families and carers.

Information includes:

- Supporting you to live independently
- Supporting you to regain your independence
- Living with support
- Paying for care
- Health and wellbeing
- Activities and things to do

Find out more online at <https://careadvice.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Buckinghamshire Local Plan

3,439 responses were received to the Attitudes Survey which closed on 11 February. A summary of findings will be published later in the summer.

330 brownfield sites have been submitted for assessment and the opportunity to submit new sites remains open. The submission form and details on the website are available on the council's website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/call-for-brownfield-sites/>

The supply of housing from these brownfield sites is likely to fall short of what will be needed until 2040, the next step will be a call for greenfield sites to explore the other options for development.

The government has promised an update on its planning reforms in 'Spring 2022'.

Buckinghamshire Council consultations

A reminder that current consultations and surveys from Buckinghamshire Council are available to view on our website <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>

Where appropriate, we also list NHS consultations and surveys as well.