

Our Westminster Government has expressed its support for the people of Ukraine and has encouraged British residents to open their homes and to offer places of safety to the Ukrainian refugees. East Herts Council would like to take this opportunity to thank those residents who have responded to this encouragement and who have provided space in their homes for Ukrainian refugees during this war. The Council also wishes to thank all the residents who have contributed to helping the Ukrainians in many different ways during this difficult time. This Council also acknowledges the moral responsibility to give fair, humane and equal support to refugees and asylum seekers from many other countries, and especially to those who have put their own lives at risk by giving us assistance.

Under the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme many kind-hearted, generous British people have signed up to share their homes with refugees for 6 months. Unfortunately, there do not seem to be any plans for what comes next. Nobody seems to know where the refugee Guests will be housed when the 6 months are over.

East Herts District Council notes that it has responsibilities in relation to Affordable Housing. It further notes that it has a statutory duty to house the Homeless.

The Council also notes that private sector rents in East Herts are expensive and likely to be beyond the reach of refugees on lower- than- average incomes.

This Council therefore calls on the Government to work out a proper Plan for housing the hundreds of Ukrainian refugees in East Herts and the country as a matter of the utmost urgency. This Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and to the Home Secretary with this request. The letters to be signed by the leaders of all 4 political groups.

Motion proposed by Councillor Mione Goldspink and seconded by Councillor Sophie Bell.