

**Chief Officer List of Decisions: 1 May 2023 to 30 November 2023**

**Executive Director of Strategy and Resources(S151)**

<b>TITLE / DECISION</b>	<b>DATE OF DECISION</b>	<b>DECISION TAKER</b>	<b>REASON</b>
Commissioning of external payroll expertise	22.03.20.23	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	To appoint TPX to provide payroll expertise to enable an informed decision about the future of payroll in terms of services, processes and systems.

<p>Request for authorisation to award a short-term contract to Beam to provide end-to-end, personalised support into Private Rented Sector tenancies for Ukrainians in Barnet</p>	<p>03/04/2023</p>	<p>Executive Director of Strategy &amp; Resources (S151 officer)</p>	<p>This Chief Officer Decision seeks approval to award a short-term contract via a Waiver/Direct award to Beam to provide end-to-end, personalised support into Private Rented Sector tenancies for Ukrainians in Barnet for 12 months.</p> <p>This service will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refugees who are homeless and at risk of homelessness get into affordable PRS tenancies that they can sustain long-term due to intensive affordability checks and sustainment support.</li> <li>- Landlords that typically do not already work with the council provide access to more properties and can receive next-day payments from Beam ensuring an efficient move-in process.</li> </ul> <p>The London Borough of Barnet is the borough hosting the largest number of Ukrainian applicants under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Many sponsorships have reached their initial 6 months agreements which has led to an influx in homelessness cases.</p> <p>There are currently 2,000+ people experiencing homelessness in Barnet, and 741 Ukrainian residents of which 39 are currently owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty. Ukrainian guests in Barnet are in urgent need of stable, affordable, accommodation in the Private Rented Sector. Numbers of people experiencing homelessness and poverty are also likely to increase.</p> <p>This presents an exciting opportunity for Barnet to further help Ukrainian guests who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to secure long-term independence and stability in the borough.</p> <p><b>Funding</b></p>
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The funding required to deliver the one-year service is £160,000.

Type of Cost	Total Cost £
- Number of people proposed service - 80	Average cost per household  £2,000.00
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>£160,000.00</b>

Based on an average fundraising campaign value of £4,000 with 80 households, the total investment raised for Barnet service-users will be £320,000. This will all be funded by donations.

Barnet will commission Beam to work with Barnet service-users according to the following payment model:

£160,000 payment at start for 80 people joining Beam.

Therefore, Barnet is expected to achieve savings of £3.80 for every £1 spent.

This funding will be funded by LBB's Strategy Team through the Home for Ukraine budget. This is paid at a rate of £10,500.00 per person to support Ukrainians in the borough.

**Contract Route**

It is proposed to directly award this contract to Beam for the following reasons:

- Beam have the ability to mobilise quickly to start in March/April 2023 to maximise the funding.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beam partners with local authorities to provide long term, sustained support by removing the financial barriers that prevent its service-users from accessing the Private Rented Sector. These barriers can include rental deposits, first month's rent, a moving van, and furniture.</li> <li>- London boroughs such as Camden, Islington, Enfield, and Haringey have commissioned Beam as a single tender enterprise for the Homes for Ukraine scheme.</li> <li>- The Council could tender more widely but this is not recommended as research carried out did not identify any other organisations providing the same service as that offered by Beam.</li> <li>- Beam has worked with 1350 service-users, with 100% of service-users' campaigns funding on time (99% of Beam's donations come from monthly subscriptions split between all fundraising campaigns, which ensures that 100% of campaigns will continue to fund). There has been a 10% drop-out rate to date. Of those service-users who joined Beam 96% have sustained tenancies.</li> </ul>
Commissioning of external payroll expertise	21.06.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	To appoint Newtrality to provide assistance with in-sourcing support services back into the Council from Capita. They will use their payroll expertise to enable an informed decision about the future of payroll in terms of services, processes and systems.
Approval to award GLA Grant Funding to Meridian Wellbeing	05.07.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	This Chief Officer Decision seeks authority to award a sum of £30,000 in grant funding awarded by the GLA to Meridian Wellbeing to deliver a range of psychosocial interventions and wellbeing activities to Hong Kongers in Barnet.

			<p>This grant funding, The Local Hong Kong Welcome Fund, was awarded to Barnet council on 12 May 2023 to enable the local authority to deliver work that contributes towards the welcome and integration of new arrivals from Hong Kong.</p> <p>The GLA granted this funding on the basis that Barnet Council will use the entirety of the funding to commission Meridian to provide these services. This funding must be used exclusively for meeting the objectives set out in the proposal and for no other purpose.</p>
Authorisation of the changes to the Corporate Grant Programme	07.07.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	<p>This is to approve the proposed changes to the Corporate Grant programme. The principles of the Corporate Grant Programme will remain the same. The proposed changes are operational and focused on reducing reputational risks, improving accessibility, transparency, and applicants experience. The Corporate Grants Programme supports voluntary organisations in Barnet that meet set criteria. The criteria are broad enough to allow specific outcomes to be aligned with Our Plan for Barnet 2023 – 2026 priorities as well as with any other subsequent corporate plans.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to consider changes that will make the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more efficient (for both the applicants and the council officers)</li> <li>• more transparent and fairer focus on projects benefiting our residents the most</li> </ul> <p>The changes were approved the SMT and four Councillors closest linked to the programme (Cllr Beg, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Conway and Cllr David)</p>
Barnet Asylum Seeker Contingency Hotels Outreach Support	13.07.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	<p>Since early 2021 the council has commissioned two VCS organisations to provide an outreach service in the hotels being used to accommodate asylum seekers.</p> <p>There are now five hotels being used to accommodate asylum seekers in Barnet. This is an increase of one hotel since December 2023 alongside a steady flow of more individuals moving into the hotels. This chief officer decision therefore seeks to approve funding to procure New Citizens Gateway and the Persian Advice Bureau to continue to</p>

			<p>provide outreach support in these five hotels for 6 months (April 2023 – September 2023). The total amount for this is £192,302:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Citizens Gateway: £95,831.00</li> <li>• Persian Advice Bureau: £96,470.80</li> </ul> <p>The funding (see audit trail) used for this is reserves of £253k allocated to asylum outreach support in March 2023.</p> <p>Due to proposed hotel maximisation and the ongoing commitment of the Home Office to stand down the use of hotels, after a period of six months this funding agreement will be assessed in line with need. Where necessary we will then seek to use further funding available through remaining reserves and the recently received asylum grant to continue to fund this work.</p>
Creation of Temporary Assistant Finance Manager: Accounts Payable	20.07.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	To create a temporary role within the Strategy and Resources Directorate until 30/06/2024 to provide support for the insourcing of the Accounts Payable function and the design and implementation of the Oracle ERP system.
Acceptance of LTA Grant – Updated August 2023	24.08.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	This report is to document the increased grant acceptance from £676,527 to £709,584.40 from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for the delivery of tennis court improvements in Parks.
Commissioning of workshop.	05.09.2023	Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (S151 officer)	To appoint Digital Blueprint Workshop to provide workshop to Designing new approaches to service delivery. Adding value and delivering a positive financial return.
Barnet Asylum Seeker Contingency Hotels Outreach Support	25.09.2023	Executive Director of Strategy &	Since early 2021 the council has commissioned two VCS organisations to provide an outreach service in the hotels being used to accommodate asylum seekers.

		Resources (S151 officer)	<p>There are now five hotels being used to accommodate asylum seekers in Barnet. This is an increase of one hotel since December 2023 alongside a steady flow of more individuals moving into the hotels.</p> <p>This chief officer decision seeks to approve funding to procure New Citizens Gateway to continue to provide outreach support in three of the five hotels for a period of 6 months (October 2023 – March 2024).</p> <p>This amounts to £137,116.</p> <p>This is being funded from the £1.19m asylum grant received from the Home Office.</p>
Request for authorisation to award a grant agreement to Beam to provide end-to-end, personalised support into Private Rented Sector tenancies for Ukrainians in Barnet	23.10.2023		<p>This Chief Officer Decision seeks approval to award a grant agreement to Beam to provide end-to-end, personalised support into Private Rented Sector tenancies for Ukrainians in Barnet for 12 months.</p> <p>This service will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refugees who are homeless and at risk of homelessness get into affordable PRS tenancies that they can sustain long-term due to intensive affordability checks and sustainment support.</li> <li>- Landlords that typically do not already work with the council provide access to more properties and can receive next-day payments from Beam ensuring an efficient move-in process.</li> </ul> <p>The London Borough of Barnet is the borough hosting the largest number of Ukrainian applicants under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Many sponsorships have reached their initial 6 months agreements which has led to an influx in homelessness cases.</p>

There are currently 2,000+ people experiencing homelessness in Barnet, and 741 Ukrainian residents of which 39 are currently owed a homelessness prevention or relief duty. Ukrainian guests in Barnet are in urgent need of stable, affordable, accommodation in the Private Rented Sector. Numbers of people experiencing homelessness and poverty are also likely to increase.

This presents an exciting opportunity for Barnet to further help Ukrainian guests who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to secure long-term independence and stability in the borough.

**Funding**

The funding required to deliver the one-year service is £160,000.

Type of Cost	Total Cost £
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of people proposed service - 80</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;">Average cost per household</p> <p style="text-align: right;">£2,000.00</p>
<p><b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>£160,000.00</b></p>

Based on an average fundraising campaign value of £4,000 with 80 households, the total investment raised for Barnet service-users will be £320,000. This will all be funded by donations.



			<p>Barnet will enable Beam to work with Barnet service-users according to the following payment model:</p> <p>£160,000 payment at start for 80 people joining Beam.</p> <p>Therefore, Barnet is expected to achieve savings of £3.80 for every £1 spent.</p> <p>This funding will be funded by LBB's Strategy Team through the Home for Ukraine budget. This is paid at a rate of £10,500.00 per person to support Ukrainians in the borough.</p> <p><b>Contract Route</b></p> <p>It is proposed to directly award this grant agreement to Beam for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Beam have the ability to mobilise quickly to start on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 to maximise the funding.</li><li>- Beam partners with local authorities to provide long term, sustained support by removing the financial barriers that prevent its service-users from accessing the Private Rented Sector. These barriers can include rental deposits, first month's rent, a moving van, and furniture.</li><li>- London boroughs such as Camden, Islington, Enfield, and Haringey have commissioned Beam as a single tender enterprise for the Homes for Ukraine scheme.</li><li>- The Council could tender more widely but this is not recommended as research carried out did not identify any other organisations providing the same service as that offered by Beam.</li><li>- Beam has worked with 1350 service-users, with 100% of service-users' campaigns funding on time (99% of Beam's donations come from monthly subscriptions split between all fundraising campaigns, which ensures that 100% of</li></ul>
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			campaigns will continue to fund). There has been a 10% drop-out rate to date. Of those service-users who joined Beam 96% have sustained tenancies.
Authorisation of the fixed term Community Events Officer role creation	01.11.2023		- This is to approve the creation of a fixed term Community Events Officer role to work within the Strategy and Community Engagement team to facilitate and enable borough wide, community led events. Community Events Officer will be responsible for delivering the events programme by proactively managing a forward plan of events, extending the reach and diversity of the programme and using ongoing learning to develop it in new directions and build in the flexibility to react to new initiatives.

*I have the required powers to make the decisions documented above or have delegated authority to the recorded Officer. I am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in taking the above decision in order to ensure that the decision making framework of the organisation including the Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations are applied. I also confirm that a full audit trail will be retained on file and available on request by the relevant authority.*

**Signed**



**Date**

**6 December 2023**