

ESCC update to Etchingam Parish Council meeting 21st April 2022

Local Government Pension Scheme

The East Sussex Pension Fund has been awarded the 2021 Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Fund of the year (assets over £2.5 billion) in the Local Authorities Pension Fund Investments Awards. The Fund was also highly commended for 'Best climate change strategy' reflecting the work done to address both the challenges and the opportunities presented by climate change, sustainability, and the energy transition.

The Awards have come to be recognised as a mark of excellence in the field of pensions provision in the LGPS so it is quite an achievement for ESCC.

Ukraine

On Tuesday this week, Cabinet received a report on the Ukrainian situation and that briefing considered the broader national issues in addition to the local impacts for East Sussex. This update related to the Homes for Ukraine scheme and the work undertaken to date.

Government is providing initial funding for councils, the sponsors and the refugees arriving in the U.K. Further clarity is being sought to establish the ongoing nature of this funding to ensure we can continue to support the successful implementation of this scheme.

The latest information is that 688 refugees have been matched to sponsors in East Sussex; it is difficult to assess how many refugees will arrive in East Sussex as the scheme is uncapped.

National guidance is being regularly updated and we are uploading the most up to date information we have to this webpage, <https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/your-council/ukraine-crisis>.

Additionally, two information 'packs' have been created, one for sponsors and one for refugees. Initial contact has been made with all sponsors to advise as to how we can assist.

On 5th April ESCC launched a dedicated public helpline for Ukrainian refugee issues, this is with the same organisation who supported our Community Hub work during the COVID pandemic.

We are aware that a potentially large number of refugees will be children of school age and we will of course attempt to provide places locally, if necessary, through the creation of additional capacity using Government funding.

We are supporting the VCSE in employing dedicated support workers in the community who will help refugees integrate into the community. Additionally, we are looking to work with the existing Ukrainian community to help design our support offer.