

## Update for May 2022

### **Ukrainian Refugee Crisis**

CDC are working with Gloucester Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) to identify what support the Council can offer to people affected by the crisis. The most up to date information on what people can do to help is on the County Council website.

There is a page on the County Council website with links to all the national and local information. This is being refreshed and added to regularly.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/ukrainian-support/> .

CDC have also now got a generic email address [HFUteam@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:HFUteam@gloucestershire.gov.uk) that will be operated usual Mon to Fri working hours that will hopefully improve communications.

The Council have also developed a local Gloucestershire Sponsor Pack which answers many of the frequently asked questions we are receiving from the public. It should be read alongside the national guide for sponsors. This will be updated regularly and contains detail on the above checks and processes.

It is available from: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/your-community/ukrainian-support/gloucestershire-homes-for-ukrainian-sponsor-guide/>

### **CDC Budget**

As people will now know:

- Council Tax has gone up by £5 for Band D properties (£3.33 for A, up to £10 for Band H). Government guidelines state the increase without a referendum can be £5 or 2%, whichever is the greater.
- Car parking charges will be increased by 5% to the nearest 10p. Free after 3 has been stopped. (An amendment to keep 'free after 3' was defeated)
- Waste bin licenses have gone up to £47 each
  
- The Council is ploughing ahead with their borrowing plans:
  - Borrowing £75 million of capital for 'investment': £35 million in 2022/23, £20 million in 2023/24 and £20 million in 2024/25.
  - £350,000 to fund the Investment Strategy including for specialist skills and expert advice on how to invest;
  - £400,000 for investment in feasibility studies and other work to support the provision of social housing built to carbon zero.
  - Over £900,000 has been spent on consultations so far, another £629,000 planned.

The high turnover of staff at CDC continues, which means that people may experience some delays in getting responses to questions, especially around matters of planning.

The Local Plan Update consultation period has now ended. The Council received quite a good response and the team will now collate that information and give an interim report in the next few weeks.