

CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2022

ITEM 5 QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

Councillor Ward (on behalf of Labour Group) – Zamość, Poland and War in Ukraine

“It has been widely reported in the news recently that Zamość, our twin town in Poland, is under increasing pressure from the amount of Ukrainian refugees that they have been accepting as a result of the war in Ukraine.

The Labour Group would like to know if Charnwood Borough Council has been in contact with our friends in Zamość to offer our support, and if so, what shape that support may take? For example, could it take the form of a scheme to put Charnwood residents keen to offer Ukrainian refugees a place to stay in the UK in touch with Ukrainians currently being supported in Zamość? Or similarly for organisations in the Borough who wish to get involved with the Sponsorship scheme?”

The Leader, or his nominee, will respond:

Thank you Cllr Ward for your question. The Council has reacted quickly and proactively to show its solidarity with the people of Ukraine, Poland and Zamość. We have flown the two national flags, lit up the Council building and supported the co-ordination of an awareness raising and solidarity event at the Sockman statue in Loughborough. We have also directly supported the collection of donations and contributed financially ensuring the delivery of donations from the fantastic response from our communities to Poland through our partnership work with the Loughborough Polish Club. A part of that initial response was to reach out to our twin town in Zamość via the Mayor who emailed his counterpart in early March. We have recently (24th March) received a response which includes a bank account for financial donations. We are in the process of verifying that account and we will then speak with the Loughborough Polish Club about how best to respond. In terms of refugee support we are working with partners in the Local Resilience Forum to implement the Government's schemes. The guidance to Councils does not include the establishment of a matching process. A matching service is therefore outside of our current remit and there would be significant issues to consider in establishing such a service including security and safety both digital and physical. The current assessment is that this would be better done at scale rather than at a local level. Our focus therefore has been on ensuring that our services are prioritised to support with the safety checks for accommodation and working with partners to support arrivals.