

POLICY AND RESOURCES CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CORPORATE STRATEGY AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES – MRS. KAREN JONES

9TH JULY 2015

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

RESETTLEMENT OF AFGHANISTAN PEOPLE SCHEME

Purpose of Report:

To seek Member approval for the Council to participate in the Afghan Locally Engaged Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme.

Background:

On 4 June 2013, the Secretary of State for Defence announced the National Security Council's agreed scheme to relocate to the UK, interpreters or equivalent grades in front line roles and their immediate family from Afghanistan during 2014 and 2015.

By participating in the Scheme, the Council will receive funds to resettle Afghan households within the County Borough. At this stage there is no indication as to how many households will require relocation. The Council will be advised of the numbers and timings of those arriving under this Scheme at a minimum of four weeks in advance of their arrival. Under the Scheme, the Council will provide newly arrived clients with help to adjust to life in the UK including providing them and their immediate family members with:

- Accommodation for four months;
- Financial assistance pending access to welfare benefits or the new arrival securing employment (whichever occurs first, but limited to 4 months); and

- Integration support, including but not limited to providing employment advice and assistance accessing services and benefits

(Officers will closely monitor any additional demands any resettlements may bring on other Council services e.g. housing, social services, education).

The precise amounts of funding will be dependent on the particular circumstances of the new arrival, for example the size and make-up of the accompanying immediate family, how long accommodation / cash support is provided for.

An example is shown below of the total funding available for a family of six individuals comprising two adult parents, two school aged children, one toddler and one baby.

Accommodation	
Set up and void costs	£7,500
4 months rent @£15 per person per day	£10,800
Hotel	£300
Baby pack	£225
Integration	
@£4,500 per person	£27,000
Cash Support	
For four months	£5,190.24
Transport	
@ £40 per person	£240
Total	£51,255.24

Recommended:

That the Cabinet Board approves and supports the Council signing up to the Afghan Locally Engaged Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme.

Reason for Proposed Decision:

To support the relocation and integration activity for Afghan Households entering the UK as part of the Afghan Locally Engaged Staff Ex Gratia Scheme.

List of Background Papers:

Home Office Grant Agreement for the Afghan Locally Engaged Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme.

Officer Contact:

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

(a) Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the 3-day call-in period

(b) Sustainability Appraisal

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	- Neutral
Education & Lifelong Learning	- Positive
Better Health & Wellbeing	- Positive
Environment & Transport	- Neutral
Crime & Disorder	- Neutral

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	- Neutral
Sustainable Development	- Neutral
Equalities	- Positive
Social Inclusion	- Positive

(c) Consultation

This item is not subject to external consultation