DECISION OF THE LEADER - JANUARY 2020

PARTICIPATION IN THE UK RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

Purpose of Decision

To give delegated executive authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to confirm the Council's participation in the UK Resettlement Scheme.

To pledge on behalf of the Council to the provision of one property (up to six people) in the private rented sector.

Decision

That the following delegated executive authority to be given to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing with immediate effect:

- To confirm participation in the UK Resettlement Scheme.
- To pledge on behalf of the Council to the provision of one property (up to six people) in the private rented sector.

Reason

To enable Council to confirm participation in the Scheme and the pledge by the 31st January 2020.

Background

On 17th June 2019 the Government confirmed its ongoing commitment to resettlement, announcing plans for a new UK Resettlement Scheme for 2020-2021 which will begin in 2020.

The UK Resettlement Scheme will consolidate the existing Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) and the Gateway Protection Programme.

The new Scheme will be open to refugees identified by UNHCR to be in need of resettlement to the UK because of their vulnerability. There is no geographic focus to the new Scheme.

Those resettled through Community Sponsorship and Mandate routes will be in addition to the commitment.

In the first year of operation of the new Scheme, the UK will aim to resettle 5000 refugees.

The new UK Resettlement Scheme will continue to be based on vulnerability, with refugees assessed for resettlement by UNHCR against their resettlement submission categories.

Participation in the Scheme will continue to be voluntary.

Financial Implications

The UK Resettlement Scheme is funded by the Home Office at no cost to the Council. The Local Authority will receive the following amount per person resettled over the five years of the Scheme.

Timeframe	Funding per person
Year 1	£8,520.00
Year 2	£5,000.00
Year 3	£3,700.00
Year 4	£2,300.00
Year 5	£1,000.00

The Scheme is expected to start in April 2020.

Risk Management

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this decision.

Signed:

Councillor Jonathan Morgan, Leader of the Council

Date: 29 - 01 · 20 ·

Officer to Contact: Alison Simmons

Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

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Key decision: No

Background papers: None