

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
UNITED KINGDOM RESETTLEMENT SCHEME (UKRS)  
AFGHAN RELOCATION AND ASSISTANCE POLICY (ARAP)  
“HOMES FOR UKRAINE” SCHEME**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To update on the renewed pledges for Refugee Resettlement in North Lincolnshire to seek approval for North Lincolnshire Council to support the extension of the local offer previously agreed in March 2022 for both the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)
- 1.2 To confirm North Lincolnshire Council's support and involvement in any future Ukraine Resettlement Programme.
- 1.3 To reaffirm the Councils continued commitment to supporting vulnerable young people through the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) Scheme and National Transfer Scheme.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire has been involved in the resettlement of refugees since 2015 and in that period has resettled 22 families from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan through the United Kingdom Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) the Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Scheme and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) All the commitments across these schemes have been fulfilled.
- 2.2 In addition to supporting the various family and adult Resettlement schemes, North Lincolnshire Council continues to support the resettlement of young people through the UASC scheme and have a clear commitment to the National Transfer Scheme, where young people currently in Kent are relocated to North Lincolnshire.
- 2.3 All the Adult and Family schemes commitments are based on a fair share allocation across Yorkshire and Humber based on population and capacity. A collaborative, cross government approach is being taken to

support the effective integration of all Refugees who choose to come to the UK including engagement with Local Authorities and each of the 11 Strategic Migration Partnerships across the UK.

- 2.4 Currently there are many Afghan Refugees who came to the UK under Operation Pitting who remain in temporary accommodation. To facilitate the ceasing of temporary accommodation, North Lincolnshire are required to renew its pledge on future numbers for each of the schemes. An initial pledge between September 2023 and March 2024 for accepting Afghans leaving hotels is required, as these are the priority group.
- 2.5 In addition we are requested to make a pledge on the UKRS Scheme from April 2024 to March 2025.
- 2.6 From a North Lincolnshire perspective, our newly suggested combined allocation, based on the fair share is 36 people 16 for ARAP and 20 for UKRS, this is likely to constitute 4 Afghan households and 5 UKRS households.
- 2.7 On 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Government (DLUHC) announced the “Homes for Ukraine” Scheme. The scheme allowed individuals to sponsor a named Ukrainian or a named Ukrainian family to stay with them in their home or in a separate property. The Council have supported the scheme acting as a link to DLUHC and providing support to both guests and sponsors.
- 2.8 The Phase Two Resettlement Scheme for Ukrainians is supporting a process whereby guests are now moving out of sponsors accommodation through a “Find Your Own Accommodation Pathway” North Lincolnshire Council and its partners are committed to participate in the scheme and will continue to provide support to those Ukrainian families and individuals who have chosen to remain in the UK and settle in private accommodation.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option 1
  - To agree to renew our Resettlement Pledge to the ARAP and UKRS Schemes based on the fair share allocation.
  - To support the new “Homes for Ukraine” Find Your Own Accommodation Pathway scheme and commit to future resettlement in phase two of this scheme.
  - To reaffirm our commitment to supporting vulnerable young people through a continued support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and the National Transfer Scheme.
- 3.2 Option 2 – To withdraw from the Resettlement schemes and not renew our pledge at this time.

#### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Local Authorities are being asked for their support and assistance as the government seeks to fulfil their moral obligation to support those who have served this country and those that have been displaced by war. The renewed pledge requires additional offers of resettlement, support, and housing and will be managed over the next two years.
- 4.2 Accommodation for the Afghans and those arriving through UKRS is provided by Ongo Homes, through a contracted arrangement. Ongo have confirmed they will provide the 9 properties required to fulfil these pledges.
- 4.3 People relocated under the scheme are supported by the respective Local Authority via a 12-month integration package which includes:
- Reception arrangements upon arrival
  - Accommodation
  - A package of advice and assistance
  - Registration with GP's and local Job Centre Plus
  - Assistance in securing school places for school aged children
  - Cash support
- 4.4 If the Local Authority decide not to commit to a pledge on Afghan Resettlement at this time, it is likely that the Home Office and DLUHC will allocate a number of families to the local Authority to house under statutory homelessness legislation.
- 4.5 The Local Authority has been committed to providing support and accommodation for vulnerable young people, both of whom arrive spontaneously and through the National Transfer Scheme, in addition to making pledges on UKRS and ARAP this support for vulnerable young people will also continue.

#### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 The Local Authority is provided with funding to support families through a grant funding arrangement. The Local Authority would claim an initial payment on arrival and a further payment throughout the 12-month period.

#### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 Extending our offer and increasing our numbers demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the ambition and priorities articulated in the Council Plan.

6.2 The overall numbers involved in the resettlement process are low and no specific risks or capacity issues are identified.

6.3 The provision of support and assistance to those who have served with British Forces also demonstrates our commitment to the *Armed Forces Covenant* and our ongoing support to Veterans and those who have served our country.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

7.1 A Stage One Integrated Impact Assessment has been undertaken and there are no material potential negative impacts identified in relation to the proposal.

## 8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Discussions have taken place with local Partner organisations who support of the extension of the scheme.

## 9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet Members confirm their approval for North Lincolnshire Council to renew our pledge for 2023- 25 and receive the number of Refugees as set out in the report.

9.2 The Cabinet Members further approve the ongoing commitment to the “Homes for Ukraine” Scheme and commit to the future provision of Resettlement for Ukraine as guided by National Policy.

9.3 That Cabinet reaffirm their commitment to supporting Vulnerable Young people who arrive as UASC and a further commitment to continue to support the National Transfer Scheme as required.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

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### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Letter from Home Office, Ministry of Defence and MHCLG and Factsheet for Local Authorities

“Homes for Ukraine” Guidance document January 2023 Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities