

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, ADULTS AND HEALTH AND
FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE
CABINET MEMBERS**

**AFGHAN LOCALLY EMPLOYED STAFF RELOCATION
SCHEME ACCELERATION**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To clarify the Afghan locally employed staff relocation scheme and to seek approval for North Lincolnshire Council to support the acceleration of relocations under the scheme

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Government have been running a scheme to relocate Afghan locally employed staff (LES) to the UK since 2013, in recognition of their commitment and bravery shown in supporting UK forces and the risks involved. Under the new relocation policy launched in April 2021, the Government assessment is that around 1000 Afghan LES and their families, giving an estimated total of between 3000 and 5000 individuals, may be eligible to apply for 5 years 'Leave to Enter the UK' with a pathway for resettlement thereafter.
- 2.2 Following the announcement that NATO military forces will withdraw from Afghanistan, the Government intend to accelerate the pace of relocations under the scheme. The precise number of people, and the timing of their relocation to the UK, will depend on a number of factors, including the wishes of families themselves. For planning purposes, the Government believe that they should be prepared to relocate up to 600 families over the summer, with the first of the relocations beginning in the middle of June. However, it is of note that there is no cut off date, and the Government will continue to fulfil their obligations to all those eligible, whenever they decide to apply.

- 2.3 A collaborative, cross government approach is being taken to support the effective integration of all those LES 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 Local Authorities received a letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Defence and the Home Office seeking support in the accelerated relocation of LES, who have been supporting the UK in Afghanistan.
- 2.5 From a North Lincolnshire perspective, our suggested allocation is 8 people if 3000 and 13 people if 5000. This is likely to constitute either 2 or 3 households.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 – To agree to support and assist the Afghan LES Relocation Scheme Acceleration
- 3.2 Option 2 – To not agree to support and assist the Afghan LES Relocation Scheme Acceleration

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.
- 4.2 People relocated under the scheme are supported by the respective Local Authority via a four 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

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 after the 4 month period has ended.

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

6.1 Providing support and assistance to individuals and families who relocate to North Lincolnshire demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the ambition and priorities articulated in the Council Plan.

6.2 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 Not applicable

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

8.1 Not applicable

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That North Lincolnshire Council chooses to be part of the Afghan LES Scheme and the Cabinet Members confirm their approval for North Lincolnshire Council to support the acceleration of relocations under the scheme.

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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