

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 June 2021 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.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire has been involved in the resettlement of refugees since 2015 and in that period has resettled 10 families from Syria and Iraq within the UKRS Scheme. In August 2021 North Lincolnshire Council agreed to be part of the Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Scheme and the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Commitment was made to relocate and house 6 families in North Lincolnshire in 2021/22.
- 2.2 All the commitments are based on a fair share allocation across Yorkshire and Humber based on population and capacity.
- 2.3 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 The two Refugee resettlement schemes are continuing, and North Lincolnshire are required to renew its pledge on future numbers for each of the two schemes over the next two years to March 2024.
- 2.5 From a North Lincolnshire perspective, our newly suggested combined allocation, based on the fair share is 30 people 15 for ARAP and 15 for UKRS, this is likely to constitute 6 households, with three families from each scheme.
- 2.6 On 14th March 2022 the Government (DLUHC) announced the “Homes for Ukraine” Scheme. The scheme will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety – including those with no family ties to the UK. Phase one of the scheme will allow sponsors in the UK to nominate a named Ukrainian or a named Ukrainian family to stay with them in their home or in a separate property. The Council will support and promote the scheme acting as a link to DLUHC for Charities, faith groups and local community organisations and individuals who wish to be involved in the scheme.
- 2.7 If a Phase Two Resettlement Scheme for Ukrainians is launched, North Lincolnshire Council is committed to participate in the scheme based on a fair share agreement and in line with national policy.

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” scheme and commit to future resettlement in phase two of this 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 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

4.3 The “Homes for Ukraine” Scheme opened on the 14th of March and the Council will look to support the scheme through promotion and Information advice and guidance to local businesses, faith groups, charities, and individuals.

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 payments 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 2022- 24 and receive the number of Refugees as set out in the report.

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

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Author: Stuart Minto
Date: 15 March 2022

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 March 2022 Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities