

Decision under Delegated Powers

Extension to Refugee Resettlement Service

Officer Requesting Decision:

Head of Strategic Housing – Katie Moore

Officer Making the Decision:

Director of Housing and Wellbeing – Peter Oliver

Recommendation:

Extension of the Refugee Resettlement Service and the following posts for the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026:

- M507 Refugee Resettlement Assistant, 1 x FTE
- M506 Refugee Resettlement Officer, 4 x FTE
- M520 Refugee Resettlement Employment Advisor, 1 x FTE
- M519 Refugee Resettlement Team Leader, 1 x FTE
- M518 Refugee Resettlement Manager, 1 x FTE

All staffing costs will be changed to the cost centre F315 (ARAP Scheme) following the end of the VPRS on 31st March 2025.

The posts will be fully funded by Home Office grant funding for the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Scheme, the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and Asylum Dispersal.

Reason:

To enable continued effective delivery of support service for households resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy and the UK Resettlement Scheme. To enable continued response to developments with the asylum dispersal and contingency accommodation.

Authority for Decision:

Section 8.3 of the Council Constitution contains authority for the Director of Housing and Wellbeing to authorise extensions to the Refugee Resettlement Service, by periods of up to 12 months (Item 17).

Decision and Date:

Approved.



Peter Oliver
Director of Housing and Wellbeing

22.11.24

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 was scheduled to begin in April 2020. The Scheme was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and commenced in April 2021.

In April 2021, the Government announced the expansion of the Afghan LES Relocation Policy reflecting the changing situation in Afghanistan and the consequent risk to LES.

Charnwood will previously led the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) on behalf of participating Councils in Leicestershire and Rutland and have continued to coordinate the UK Resettlement Scheme, the Afghan LES Relocation Scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme on behalf of the participating Local Authorities.

To date, 1 family has been resettled through the UK Resettlement Scheme, and that family will be supported for a period of 5 years from 2022 – 2027.

To date, a total of 23 families have been resettled through the Afghan LES Relocation Scheme and 5 families have been resettled through the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme. Each family is supported for a period of 3 years from the date they moved into permanent accommodation.

Further households are expected to be resettled across Leicestershire and Rutland in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, into accommodation provided through Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) Round 2 and Round 3 funding, into private sector accommodation sourced by Mears on behalf of the MOD and potentially by households through the Find Your Own accommodation route.

Summary of Advice Provided by HR:

Comments:

On approval of the DD, management will be required to complete Contract Variation e-Forms for the employees on Fixed Term Contracts within these effected posts -

M507 Refugee Resettlement Assistant – Colleague Ref: 08676

M506 Refugee Resettlement Officer – Colleague Ref: 08696

M520 Resettlement Employment Advisor - Colleague Ref: 08746
M519 Resettlement Team Leader - 08915

The remaining colleagues effected by this DD are already on permanent contracts.

HR Advisor: Nicola Ward (14/11/24)

Financial Implications:

All posts will be fully funded by the Home Office funding for the UKRS, ACRS, ARAP and Asylum.

The posts will be funded as follows:

Refugee Resettlement Manager:

- 50% from Home Office Asylum funding
- 12.5% from Home Office funding for the ACRS Scheme
- 37.5% from Home Office funding for the ARAP Scheme

Refugee Resettlement Team Leader, Refugee Resettlement Employment Advisor, Refugee Resettlement Officer, Refugee Resettlement Assistant:

- 5% from the Home Office funding for the UKRS
- 70% from Home Office funding for the ACRS Scheme
- 25% from the Home Office funding for the ARAP Scheme

The related costs are:

- The cost of extending M518 Refugee Resettlement Manager for 12 months at 1 FTE is £62,600.00. Grade PO1.
- The cost of extending M519 Refugee Resettlement Team Leader at 1 FTE for 12 months is £56,700.00. Grade SO2.
- The cost of extending M506 Refugee Resettlement Officers for 12 months at 4 FTE is £182,000.00. This includes the Essential Car User Allowance. Grade D.
- The cost of extending M507 Refugee Resettlement Assistant post for 12 months at 1 FTE is £40,400.00.
- The cost of extending M520 Refugee Resettlement Employment Advisor for 12 months at 1 FTE is £47,000.00. This includes the Essential Car User Allowance. Grade E.

Total costs: £388,700.00 salaries + £5,600.00 ECU = £394,300.00.

Posts will be in Cost Centre F315.

The tables below shows the actual and projected income and expenditure for each funding stream including the costs incurred by extending these posts.

ACRS Scheme Funding 2022-2026					
	Income	Spend	Total	Cumulative Totals	
2022-2023	-£189,000.00	£136,028.81	-£52,971.19	-£52,971.19	Actuals
2023-2024	-£223,500.00	£50,016.02	-£173,483.98	-£226,455.17	Actuals
2024-2025	-£138,000.00	£23,961.59	-£114,038.41	-£340,493.58	Projected
2025-2026	-£44,000.00	£99,350.00	£55,350.00	-£285,143.58	Projected
	-£594,500.00	£309,356.42	-£285,143.58	-£285,143.58	

ARAP Scheme Funding 2022-2028					
	Income	Spend	Total	Cumulative Totals	
2022-2023	-£168,000.00	£133,143.97	-£34,856.03	-£34,856.03	Actuals
2023-2024	-£264,000.00	£57,134.81	-£206,865.19	-	Actuals
2024-2025	-£398,628.03	£79,867.58	-£318,760.45	£241,721.22	Projected
2025-2026	-£366,000.00	£368,368.75	£2,368.75	-	Projected
2026-2027	-£192,000.00	£317,499.74	£125,499.74	£560,481.67	Projected
2027-2028	-£80,000.00	£291,400.74	£211,400.74	-	Projected
	-£1,468,628.03	£1,247,415.59	-£221,212.44	£432,613.18	
				£221,212.44	

UKRS Scheme Funding 2022-2027					
	Income	Spend	Total	Cumulative Totals	
2022-2023	-£55,842.97	£55,842.37	-£0.60	-£0.60	Actuals
2023-2024	-£25,000.00	£8,862.01	-£16,137.99	-£16,138.59	Actuals
2024-2025	-£18,500.00	£4,938.96	-£13,561.04	-£29,699.63	Projected
2025-2026	-£11,500.00	£18,955.00	£7,455.00	-£22,244.63	Projected
2026-2027	-£5,000.00	£22,608.67	£17,608.67	-£4,635.96	Projected
	-£115,842.97	£111,207.01	-£4,635.96	-£4,635.96	

Asylum Dispersal Funding 2023-2025					
	Income	Spend	Total	Cumulative Totals	
2023-2024	-£159,000.00	£2,320.58	-£156,679.42	-£156,679.42	Actuals
2024-2025	-£364,250.00	£281,095.76	-£83,154.24	-£239,833.66	Projected
	-£523,250.00	£283,416.34	-£239,833.66	-£239,833.66	

Where staff work across the UKRS, ACRS and ARAP Schemes, costs will be allocated accordingly.

Risk Management:

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

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

- DD074 2024: Refugee Resettlement Manager
- DD063 2024: Refugee Resettlement Manager and Team Leader
- DD040 2024: Refugee Resettlement Service Extension
- DD003 2024: Refugee Resettlement Officer
- DD002 2024: Refugee Resettlement Officer
- DD001 2024: Refugee Resettlement Assistant
- DD132 2023: Resettlement Worker
- DD043 2023: Resettlement Services Staffing