

Key Decision Report :To accept funding to continue co-ordination of the regional resettlement programme on behalf of local authorities in Yorkshire and Humber and respond to the acceleration of the Afghan Relocation Scheme

Date: 11 August 2021

Report of: Head of Migration Yorkshire

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

## **What is this report about?**

### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

1. The Government have announced a continuation of the resettlement programme, the 'UK Resettlement Scheme' and a recent urgent call for responses to the Afghan Relocation Scheme. Migration Yorkshire seeks to continue to co-ordinate these programmes for the Yorkshire and Humber local authorities, accept grant funding from the Home office and re-distribute to local authorities and delivery partners across the Yorkshire and Humber region to provide housing and associated integration assistance to programme participants.
2. This arrangement will contribute to all the 'Best city...for communities' aims in the Leeds 2030 Vision: People are safe and feel safe; The city is clean and welcoming; People are active and involved in their communities; and People get on well together

## **Recommendations**

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is recommended to:

Accept a Funding Instruction/ Grant Agreement with the Home Office to continue the regional management role of the resettlement programme and the Afghan Relocation Scheme;

Continue the Local Authority Partnership Agreements (subject to any amendments approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire) with Yorkshire and Humber local authorities;

Continue grant funding agreements with third sector organisations (subject to any amendments approved by the Head of Migration Yorkshire) including the Refugee Council, SOLACE and any other organisations that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are required to deliver the resettlement programme;

Enter into such other agreements that the Head of Migration Yorkshire believes are needed to enable Leeds City Council to deliver the resettlement programme.

All of the above are subject always to agreeing a form of Funding Instruction/ Grant Agreement from the Home Office that is reasonable in the opinion of the Head of Migration Yorkshire.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The Government have announced a continuation of the resettlement programme, the 'UK Resettlement Scheme' (UKRS) and a recent urgent call for responses to an acceleration of the Afghan Relocation Scheme. Migration Yorkshire seeks to continue to co-ordinate these programmes for the Yorkshire and Humber local authorities, accept grant funding from the Home office and re-distribute to local authorities and delivery partners across the Yorkshire and Humber region to provide housing and associated integration assistance to programme participants.
- 2 Previous key decisions relating to the co-ordination of resettlement programmes by Migration Yorkshire have been taken by Leeds City Council in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- 3 A procurement exercise during 2020 to decide on the Integration and Caseworker Support provider, post 2021, was put on hold due to Covid-19 and the suspension of the programme. In the meantime, grant an extension to the current provider arrangement (Refugee Council).
- 4 This proposal is being put forward at this time to have the necessary agreements in place for the next phases of these programmes to continue to deliver coordinated responses and services for resettlement and relocation programmes across Yorkshire and Humber local authorities.

## What impact will this proposal have?

**Wards Affected: N/A – regional Y & H co-ordination not ward specific**

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 5 The proposal will enable local authorities across Yorkshire and Humber to fulfil their pledges of support to the programmes, and to work more effectively, collaboratively and efficiently.
- 6 Please find Equality and Impact Assessment (Appendix A) attached

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 7 Regular consultation and meetings continue to take place with the Home Office throughout the development, negotiation and planning for both programmes.
- 8 Migration Yorkshire have consulted and engaged with all local authorities, and with VCS delivery partners

## What are the resource implications?

- 9 Both the UKRS and Afghan Relocation Scheme are fully funded by the Home Office

## What are the legal implications?

- 10 This is a Key Decision due to the sums of money involved and is subject to call-in.
- 11 This arrangement is a response to an international humanitarian crisis. This is a voluntary arrangement with the Council, the other Yorkshire and Humber local authorities and third

sector organisations that specialise in the support of refugees and conflict survivors working together to assist the UK Government to deliver on the commitments that it has made.

**What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

12 Please see attached Risk Register ( Appendix B) attached

**Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

**Options, timescales and measuring success**

**a) What other options were considered?**

13 Local Authorities were given the option to opt-out, as these are voluntary schemes.

**b) How will success be measured?**

14 The Local Authority partnership agreement lays out the responsibility of partners in successfully housing and providing integration support under these schemes. Success is measured against these and the Home office Funding Instruction criteria

**c) What is the timetable for implementation?**

15 These schemes are both extensions of currently running programmes and as such will continue to operate as previously.

**Appendices**

16 Appendix A – Equality Impact assessment

17 Appendix B – Risk register

**Background papers**

18 N/A