

## Safe Stronger Communities – Resettlement ACRS & ARAP – Mercure Hotel Wetherby

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

Report of: Chief Officer Safer Stronger Communities

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

### Brief summary

The Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) has been in operation since March 2021, providing relocation and assistance to formerly Locally Employed Staff in Afghanistan.

The Resettlement Team currently provide support both to families which have been relocated within the community and at a bridging hotel in Garforth.

Leeds has been requested to support further Afghan arrivals (up to 170) at an additional bridging hotel in Wetherby as part of the above scheme.

### Recommendations

- a) The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment to approve the creation of five additional posts within the Resettlement Team to fulfil this requirement.

## What is this report about?

- 1 Since the launch of the ARAP & ACRS schemes, the Resettlement Team within Safer, Stronger Communities Team has developed and coordinated the accommodation offer, activities and services to ensure support for approximately 284 Afghan citizens who have arrived in Leeds since April 2021 both within the community and at a bridging hotel in Garforth. Leeds has also agreed to support up to an additional 170 citizens in the 2022-2023 financial year at a bridging hotel in Wetherby.
- 2 The Home Office scheme will provide financial support for three years to assist with the resettlement of citizens.
- 3 It has been assessed that to fulfil the commitment to provide relocation and assistance for up to an additional 170 citizens which will be based at the Mercure Hotel in Wetherby the following additional staff will be required:
  - a) PO2 Project Coordinator x 1
  - b) SO1 Liaison Officer x 4
- 4 The co-ordination of work is very labour intensive, with a significant amount of resource being spent operationally managing the wrap around support and services.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 The proposal will have a significant beneficial impact on the sustained delivery of the ARAP and ACRS scheme within Leeds, ensuring that there is sufficient resource to deal with the co-ordination efforts.
- 6 The proposal will also have significant positive impacts on the wider Resettlement Team, the new posts will be embedded into the existing approved structure, ensuring that a flexible and scalable workforce is created that will allow for greater resilience across the service.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 7 Consideration has been given to staff in relation to Health and Wellbeing and their work life balance.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 8 Local elected members and MP, as well as the Executive Lead Member for Communities, have been consulted and agreed to the proposal.
- 9 Consultation has taken place with Head of Community Relations and Cohesion and Resettlement Manager and staff that are currently supporting the co-ordination activities.

10 A working group has been set up and is meeting on a regular basis, with representatives from elected members, HR, finance, and union convenors. These draft proposals have been shared at the working group however we are awaiting further feedback.

### **What are the resource implications?**

11 The ARAP & ACRS are Home Office grant funded schemes and a breakdown of the expected income and expenditure is included at appendix 1. Appendix 1 assumes wraparound funding of £28 per person per day will be received for 50 arrivals January 2022 onwards, increasing to 100 in 2023/24 and throughout 2024/25, reducing to 50 in 2025/26.

12 The breakdown shows that all proposed changes can be funded through the grant award.

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

13 Risks associated with delivering the requirements of the service have been identified, and the new posts will seek to mitigate these risks through an effective team performance and accountability framework, which will be monitored on a regular basis.

### **What are the legal implications?**

14 The recommendations within this paper are not subject to Call In as they are within the delegated authority of the Director of Communities, Housing & Environments.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

15 It was considered to remain providing co-ordination of operational activities within the current arrangements however, concern was raised from management and staff currently within this arrangement that service demand levels (which will be increasing over the next year) significantly outweighed the resources currently available and was leading to high levels of stress and potential for all staff to experience burn out.

### **How will success be measured?**

16 Success will be measured by the implementation of a team performance and accountability framework and the subsequent monitoring of the agreed key performance indicators.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

17

<b>Action</b>	<b>Week Commencing</b>
Proposal shared at working groups	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
Feedback from unions	5 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
Recruit to new posts	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2022

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Budget Workings for Proposed ACRS, ARAP & Hotel Wraparound
- Appendix 2: Job Description PO2 Project Coordinator
- Appendix 3: Job Description SO1 Liaison Officer