

# EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



## REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – HCI 21/22

Decision	
1	<p><b>Title of decision:</b></p> <p>Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation Schemes July 2021</p>
2	<p><b>Decision maker (Cabinet Member):</b></p> <p>Councillor Vivien Pengelly (Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities)</p>
3	<p><b>Report author and contact details:</b></p> <p>Jessica Dann (Community Connections technical Lead – Refugees and Asylum Seekers)  <a href="mailto:jessica.dann@plymouth.gov.uk">jessica.dann@plymouth.gov.uk</a> Tel (01752) 306848</p>
4	<p><b>Decision to be taken:</b></p> <p>Agree in principle to resettle the dependent family members of the principal applicant resettled via the Afghan LES Ex-gratia scheme between 2014-2016.</p> <p>Agree that Plymouth City Council will be able to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) by offering integration support if the Home Office provide interim accommodation in the city for a period of up to 12 months. Plymouth City Council would accept between 30-50 people if offering integration support only.</p>
5	<p><b>Reasons for decision:</b></p> <p>The Afghan Locally Engaged Staff Relocation Programme is a Home Office managed migration scheme to relocate Afghan Civilian Personnel who have been employed by the Ministry of Defence in recognition of their commitment and bravery shown supporting UK forces since 2013.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council recognise that: this is a high priority for the Home Office; the Council has previously participated in this scheme; and Plymouth has strong connections with the Armed Forces. This needs to be carefully balanced against local priorities and recognising the already significant demand on affordable private rented sector accommodation. Benefits to this approach enables the Council to mobilise quickly and at short notice to support the Scheme. The Council will balance its commitments to deliver the Refugee Resettlement Scheme alongside the ARAP scheme. The Refugee Resettlement Scheme supports the commissioning of the Refugee Integration Service contract and this service is essential in maintaining the levels of support for all refugees coming into the city. This service that will be able to provide the ongoing support to Afghan LES families beyond the 12-month period funded by the HO.</p> <p>Ongoing involvement in the scheme would support the Home Office's objectives of ensuring a safe route of passage for the most vulnerable migrants and be consistent with the commitment to promote Plymouth as a Welcoming City and the cooperative values of fairness and responsibility.</p>
6	<p><b>Alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p> <p>We could refuse the Home Office's request. However, the scheme, which is funded, has been successful</p>

to date and not accepting any further would be contrary to our local values and would not support the national commitment to resettle the Afghan LES who have been employed by the UK armed forces, often in dangerous and challenging situation. Further, it is not clear whether refusal to co-operate with this scheme may result in the Home Office operating the relocation of those individuals brought to the UK on a no-choice basis with no consultation or veto by Local Authorities.

The decision to provide accommodation and integration support for the dependents to join family members already here has been made to reflect the best interests of the family and children. Not accepting these families would have a detrimental impact on the individuals already here as well as the mental health of the children who would remain separated from their fathers.

Accommodation and integration support has not been offered for new families under ARAP as relying on limited availability and access to private rented sector accommodation may preclude Plymouth from participating in the scheme.

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### Financial implications:

All our costs associated with the scheme have been and would continue to be met by a specific Home Office Funding package. The 12 month funding package includes £10,500 per person for integration support, set-up and void costs of properties plus addition money to allow the Council to claim £15pp per day for rent and a weekly cash support rate for up to 4 months whilst individuals apply for Universal Credit.

Accommodation				
Rent (up to 4 months or when in receipt of benefit)	£15 per person, per day			
Integration				
To provide integration support (includes element for void and set up costs for accommodation)	Per person rate			
	£10,500			
Cash support				
Weekly cash support rates (up to 4 months or when in receipt of benefit)	Single (under 25)	Single (25 or over)	Couples	Child (under 18)
	£59.20	£74.70	£117.40	37.75
ESOL provision				
£850 per adult (who requires it)				

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Is the decision a Key Decision?  
(please contact [Democratic Support](#) for further advice)

Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
	✓	in the case of <b>capital</b> projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of <b>£3million</b> in total
	✓	in the case of <b>revenue</b> projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of <b>£1million</b>
	✓	is <b>significant</b> in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area

				comprising <b>two or more</b> wards in the area of the local authority.
	<b>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the <u>Forward Plan of Key Decisions</u></b>			
<b>9</b>	<b>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</b>	This decision is consistent with our corporate values and objectives as a confident council that takes local and global responsibility seriously, and a caring council that promotes social and health equality.		
<b>10</b>	<b>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</b>	No impact		
<b>Urgent decisions</b>				
<b>11</b>	<b>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</b>	<b>Yes</b>		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support ( <a href="mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk">democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk</a> ) for advice)
		<b>No</b>	✓	<b>(If no, go to section 13a)</b>
<b>12a</b>	<b>Reason for urgency:</b>			
<b>12b</b>	<b>Scrutiny Chair Signature:</b>		<b>Date</b>	
	<b>Scrutiny Committee name:</b>			
	<b>Print Name:</b>			
<b>Consultation</b>				
<b>13a</b>	<b>Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	✓	
		<b>No</b>		<b>(If no go to section 14)</b>
<b>13b</b>	<b>Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?</b>	Councillor Downie, Cabinet member for Education, Skills, Children and Young People		
<b>13c</b>	<b>Date Cabinet member consulted</b>	15/07/21		
<b>14</b>	<b>Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?</b>	<b>Yes</b>		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		<b>No</b>	✓	
<b>15</b>	<b>Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?</b>	<b>Name</b>	Craig McArdle	

		<b>Job title</b>	Strategic Director for People, PCC					
		<b>Date consulted</b>	01/07/2021					
<b>Sign-off</b>								
16	<b>Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:</b>	<b>Democratic Support (mandatory)</b>	DS17 21/22					
		<b>Finance (mandatory)</b>	djn.21.22.62					
		<b>Legal (mandatory)</b>	lt/36998/150721					
		<b>Human Resources (if applicable)</b>	N/A					
		<b>Corporate property (if applicable)</b>	N/A					
		<b>Procurement (if applicable)</b>	N/A					
<b>Appendices</b>								
17	<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Title of appendix</b>						
	A	Briefing report for publication - Afghan LES June 2021 briefing						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment – Attached						
<b>Confidential/exempt information</b>								
18a	<b>Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?</b>	<b>Yes</b>		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in <b>18b</b> below.  (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		<b>No</b>	✓					
		<b>Exemption Paragraph Number</b>						
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
18b	<b>Confidential/exempt briefing report title:</b>							
<b>Background Papers</b>								
19	<p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of</p>							

Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Cabinet Member Signature</b>							
<b>20</b>	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.						
<b>Signature</b>	Vivien Pengelly		<b>Date of decision</b>	28 July 2021			
<b>Print Name</b>	Councillor Mrs Vivien Pengelly Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities						