

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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


Executive Decision Reference Number - HCDC01 23/24

Decision	
1	<p>Title of decision:</p> <p>Commitment on Cap to Resettle those through Home Office Safe and Legal Routes in 2025</p>
2	<p>Decision maker (Cabinet Member):</p> <p>Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities)</p>
3	<p>Report author and contact details:</p> <p>Jessica Dann (Community Connections technical Lead – Refugees and Asylum Seekers) jessica.dann@plymouth.gov.uk Tel (01752) 306848</p>
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <p>Agree in principle that Plymouth City Council will support the government in its commitment to set a cap on the number of people arriving to the UK on safe and legal routes for humanitarian purposes. The decision taken relates to 2025 and will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>Agree in principle that Plymouth City Council will resettle up to 30 people during 2025. This will be reviewed quarterly throughout 2024 to ensure that we will not be placing too greater pressure on the local housing market. The decision is dependent on the ability of the Local Authority to source affordable, suitable accommodation that can meet the needs of the identified cohort and to take into account any other humanitarian crises that may require the cap to be amended.</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The cap set by the Home Office under the Illegal Migration Act seeks to ensure that the UK is able to welcome, accommodate and support those arriving through safe and legal routes. The specified routes include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Community Sponsorship.</p> <p>These are all Home Office managed migration schemes to relocate those vulnerable people who may be at particular risk when seeking support from a third country as a refugee, including women and girls, those with health conditions and members of minority groups. Referrals and assessments for those eligible for these schemes will be undertaken by the UNHCR.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council has resettled 267 persons through similar Resettlement Schemes since 2015. Plymouth City Council recognise that: this is a high priority for the Home Office; the Council has previously participated in similar schemes; and is consistent with the commitment to make Plymouth one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.</p> <p>Benefits to this approach will balance local priorities such as access to affordable private rented sector accommodation alongside support the Home Office's objectives of ensuring a safe route of passage for the most vulnerable migrants and retains the corporate values as a co-operative Council who acts fairly</p>

	<p>and responsibly.</p> <p>The Home Office has proposed a fully funded package for resettlement to support people in their initial arrival to the UK, this is either three or five years dependent on the scheme they are resettled under. Ongoing involvement in these schemes will support the future commissioning of the Resettlement Support Service contract, a service that is essential in maintaining the levels of support for all resettled persons coming into the city.</p>			
<p>6</p>	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>We could refuse the Home Office’s request. However, the scheme, which is fully funded, has been successful to date and not accepting any further would be contrary to our local values and would not support the national commitment to resettle 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.</p> <p>The decision is to commit up to 30 people which would ensure that there is future resource to continue to support commissioning of the Resettlement Support Service.</p> <p>Opting to commit to a smaller number of people would not take advantage of the services already commissioned during previous schemes.</p>			
<p>7</p>	<p>Financial implications and risk:</p> <p>All our costs associated with the scheme have been and would continue to be met by a specific Home Office Funding package. The Home Office has committed to retaining the existing funding provision it uses for Resettlement Schemes under UKRS and ACRS.</p> <p>Families will be supported for the first 3 years post arrival for ACRS and 5 years post arrival for UKRS. The grant funding will be maximised to ensure that all staffing resource providing support has been accounted for.</p> <p>The Resettlement Support Service (RSS) is being commissioned to start in FY 24/25 to provide housing; integration and arrival support, assess and complement existing English as a Second Language (ESOL) provision through targeted support, support access to the labour market as well as develop community cohesion initiatives. This contract is currently being negotiated and is currently under an assurance response with one identified partnership in the city. This ensures that people arriving receive the support they need to develop and support a sense of belonging on arrival to Plymouth.</p> <p>PCC has opted to accommodate people within the private housing sector at Local Housing Allowance rates to ensure properties are affordable for families. We have been able to improve the standard of a number of properties having a positive impact on the private rental sector when households decide to move on.</p> <p>Core education costs are being offered to schools accepting children from the scheme and Health costs are made available to NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support initial health screenings, GP registration and other greater health needs.</p> <p>This funding has been sufficient to cover all foreseeable circumstances and the number of people we are proposing to take provides a good level of contingency to deal with unforeseen issues. Through the RSS contract the City is able to offer support to all resettled persons in the City, including those receiving leave to remain via the asylum process. There is a greater level of support available to Scheme households as the grant is ring-fenced, however, it has also enabled service providers to provide a wider service to those in need.</p>			
<p>8</p>	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p> <p>x</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <p>in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in</p>

				excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
			x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	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:		This decision is consistent with our corporate values and objectives to deliver more affordable homes and to support keeping children, adults and communities safe.	
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)		No significant impact.	
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?		Yes	(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
			No	x (If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?		Yes	x
			No	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?		Councillor Sally Cresswell , Cabinet member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships Councillor Jemima Laing, Cabinet Member for Children Social Care, Events, Culture and Communications	

13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	22 November 23						
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer				
		No	X					
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name		Gary Walbridge				
		Job title		Interim Strategic Director for People, PCC				
		Date consulted		29 November 2023				
Sign-off								
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)			DS76 23/24			
		Finance (mandatory)			DJN.23.24.158			
		Legal (mandatory)			LS/00001312/1/AC/4/12/23			
		Human Resources (if applicable)			N/A			
		Corporate property (if applicable)			N/A			
		Procurement (if applicable)			N/A			
Appendices								
17	Ref.	Title of appendix						
	A	Equalities Impact Assessment						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		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 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No						
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							

Background Papers								
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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p>							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	<p>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.</p>							
Signature				Date of decision	6 December 2023			
Print Name	Councillor Chris Penberthy							