

Afghan refugee Resettlement scheme

This decision seeks approval for the Council to participate in the resettlement scheme of locally employed staff who have supported UK armed forces in Afghanistan, commencing September 2021. This is expected to be for approximately 24 individuals (24 individuals assumed, at 4 persons (one couple, two u18 dependents) per family) for up to 6 families) for a 12 month grant funded package expected to be a maximum funding envelope of £325,435.80 over the year for each local authority area.

This decision also seeks approval for the Council to act as the accountable body for 3 neighbouring local authorities in the resettlement scheme for a maximum of 24 additional individuals. Nottingham City Council retains an 8% fee from this grant for management of families under County authorities. For funding purposes, the partnership is treated as one entity, and funds are pooled across all families. This enables the realisation of economies of scale.

The total cost to deliver the resettlement scheme will be funded from ring-fenced grant to be paid by the MOD. The Community team will need to put in place the appropriate measures to adhere to the grant conditions and requirements, thereby ensuring all expenditure incurred by the Council will be funded from the government grant. These measures will ensure that there will be no cost to the Council outside of the funding envelope provided.

All the expenditure will be funded from the MOD ring-fenced grant awarded to deliver the Scheme.

Dispensation from relevant Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules is sought until September 2022 due to the rapid deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan. The provision of services would in part be supported by NNRF (Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum) who have worked successfully with NCC to provide integration casework support to vulnerable refugees under previous resettlement schemes (VPRS/UKRS), and therefore has considerable experience in this sphere, well-developed and embedded processes, staff already in post, and a great deal of previous good practice and learning, facilitating the required rapid response. This approach is therefore seen to represent best value for the Council, considering the requirement to deliver this work at both scale and pace.

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