



Report to Policy Committee

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Services

Tel: 0114 2735493

Report of: Executive Director, Operational Services

Report to: Housing Policy Committee

Date of Decision: 26th January 2024

Subject: Safe Routes Cap Consultation

Type of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken Initial Full

Insert EIA reference number and attach EIA 718

Has appropriate consultation/engagement taken place? Yes No

Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a copy of the return made to the Home Office as part of the Safe and Legal Routes Cap Consultation.

Recommendations:

The Housing Committee is recommended to:

Note the contents of the return and the authority's commitment to resettle 88 refugees in 2025.

Background Papers:

Appendix A – Safe and Legal Routes Cap return to the Home Office

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed.	Finance: <i>Helen Damon</i>
		Legal: <i>Nadine Wynter</i>
		Equalities & Consultation: <i>Louise Nunn</i>
		Climate: <i>n/a</i>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	SLB member who approved submission:	<i>Ajman Ali</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Cllr Douglas Johnson</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: <i>Janet Sharpe</i>	Job Title: <i>Director of Housing, Housing and Neighbourhood Services</i>
	Date: <i>17th January 2024</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 The UK has a proud history of providing protection for those who need it through safe and legal routes. Since 2015, we have offered a safe and legal route to the UK for close to half a million people from all over the world via our global routes and our country-specific routes. This includes around 50,000 who have come to the UK on routes open to people from any country in the world, 25,000 on our country-specific routes for Afghanistan and 20,000 from Syria, over 100,000 Hong Kongers, and close to 200,000 from Ukraine.
- 1.2 The Illegal Migration Act 2023 places a duty on the Home Secretary to consult councils on the development of a cap on the number of entrants to the UK arriving on safe and legal routes for humanitarian purposes, and for the cap to be defined following consultation.
- 1.3 In October 2023 the Minister of State for Immigration officially launched the consultation on the cap on safe and legal routes which includes UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathways 2 and 3 (stage 2), and Community Sponsorship.
- 1.4 The consultation was open to local authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and with the Executive Office of Northern Ireland who were asked to consult on resettlement and confirm the number of refugees they can resettle in 2025.
- 1.5 The cap seeks to ensure that the UK is able to welcome, accommodate, integrate and support those arriving via these routes. The introduction of the cap on safe and legal routes will allow us to balance our ambition to welcome those in need with the capacity of local authorities in the UK to accommodate and support those arriving on these routes.
- 1.6 The consultation, which provides the basis by which the Home Office will propose the cap that will be agreed with Parliament, was open from 20 October 2023 until 15 December 2023 extended to 9th January 2024). The responses will be reviewed and considered at a national and regional level before a total figure is recommended.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 Sheffield was the first City of Sanctuary and as a city is proud to welcome asylum seekers and refugees into its neighbourhoods. Continued involvement with the UK Resettlement Scheme, Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme confirms this supports and commitment that Sheffield intends to be a place of safety for those fleeing persecution.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 We have consulted with Migration Yorkshire who arranged region wide consultation meetings with Local Authorities, Heath colleagues and VCS which Sheffield attended. Within Sheffield we have consulted with the following partners who support those seeking sanctuary in Sheffield, including refugees and asylum seekers:

Sheffield City Council:
Housing and Neighbourhood Services
Education (e.g. admissions)
Community Development
Community Safety Team
Adult Social Care
Childrens Social Care
Early Years

Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector:
City of Sanctuary Sheffield
Shelter
Voluntary Action Sheffield
Refugee Council

Health:
Mulberry Practice

Each have been asked to respond, both to specific questions, where possible as well as providing wider information and/or evidence pertinent to this consultation. Their responses have been incorporated into this submission.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 An EIA is currently in place that supports the Council's activity to support all refugees arriving in the city and has already been published.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 A summary of the confirmed funding packages for all three schemes is set out below along with the recently announced funding package to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme in the first 12 months. DLUHC are yet to announce funding for this scheme beyond 12 months:

	UKRS	ARAP	ACRS	Homes for Ukraine
Integrated support package for 12 months per person	£8,520	£10,500	£10,500	£10,500
Support package years 2 onwards	£12,000 paid over years 2 to 5	£10,020 paid over years 2 and 3	£10,020 paid over years 2 and 3	No current information or planned announcements
ESOL	£850	£850	£850	Funded from the £10,500
Education	3-4 yrs £2,250 5-18 yrs £4,500	3-5 yrs £2,250 5-18 yrs £4,500	3-6 yrs £2,250 5-18 yrs £4,500	2-4 yrs £3,000 5-11 yrs £6,580 11-18yrs £8,755 *
Health	Direct primary and secondary year 1 healthcare costs paid.	Direct primary and secondary year 1 healthcare costs paid.	Direct primary and secondary year 1 healthcare costs paid.	
Exception needs fund	Held by the Home Office. Bids made as required	Held by the Home Office. Bids made as required	Held by the Home Office. Bids made as required	

**The Education payments made on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme include an additional tariff to support children with SEND*

4.2.2 Funding on all schemes is given based on the confirmed number of refugee arrivals into the local authority. There is no requirement to bid for funding. Funding is paid in arrears.

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The Home Office has the power, under section 59 of the Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, to participate in a project designed to arrange or assist the settlement of migrants (whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere), including powers to provide financial support to an organisation in the United Kingdom or another country which arranges or participates in a project of that kind and to provide or arrange for the provision of financial or other assistance to a migrant who participates in a project of that kind.

4.3.2 The Council has the power under section 99 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, as amended, to provide support in accordance with arrangements made with the Home Office. The Council will enter into grant agreements with grant recipients to ensure that any obligations it has to DLUHC are passed, as appropriate, to those recipients and the

recipients do not put the Council in breach of its obligations to DLUHC.

- 4.3.3 The majority of people assisted under the UKRS, ARAP and ACRS schemes will be accommodated in private rented housing, but it may occasionally be necessary to use social housing if individual needs cannot be met in the private sector. Where refugees are allocated Council housing or nominated to registered providers, this will be done in accordance with the Council's statutory Allocations Policy. Refugees resettling under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme will live with sponsors.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Due to the need to urgently respond to the consultation it was agreed to work with the existing city infrastructure and organisations that currently support the Council and our most vulnerable refugees. The response commits to resettle 88 refugees in 2025. The availability of accommodation and services will continue to be monitored.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Council now has over 15 years' experience of management and delivery of similar refugee resettlement programmes, the longest recent involvement of any local authority in the UK.
- 6.2 Committee is asked to note the consultation response made to the Home Office.

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