

## **HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Cabinet  
5 November 2019

**Subject:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FUTURE SCHEME

**All Wards**  
**Portfolio Holder for Planning: Councillor D A Webster**

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### **1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the government's recently announced global resettlement scheme and to seek Cabinet approval for participation in the scheme and to commit to resettling a minimum of 30 persons between 2020/21 and 2023/24.

#### Background

- 1.2 Please see attached **Annex A and B**.

#### Indicative numbers that could be resettled by participating local authorities

- 1.3 Under the current scheme, North Yorkshire districts as a whole resettled on average 150 persons (approximately 30 families/properties) each year from the start to the finish of the resettlement period in the county (July 2016 to February 2018).
- 1.4 Due to pressures on local housing and other local authority housing commitments, including the duties introduced under The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, a more conservative target of 50 refugees per year (approximately 11-13 families) is proposed to be resettled under the new scheme, rather than continuing with the higher average resettlement rate achieved under the current scheme.
- 1.5 50 persons per year from 2020/21 to 2023/24 would equate to one percent of the envisaged national programme. This is the same 'fair share' approach used for the SVP and VCRS programmes, given that North Yorkshire's population is just under one percent of the UK population. Using this approach, the number of refugees that would be resettled in each district is shown in the table below. To reach an average of 50 persons being resettled each year would require a minimum of two districts a year to participate and in some instances would involve three districts. The actual numbers resettled might be marginally higher than those listed below due to the need to match family sizes to specific properties.

Table 3: ONS 2018 population estimates

<b>District</b>	<b>2018 population mid-year estimate by district</b>	<b>Percentage of North Yorkshire population by district</b>	<b>Refugees to be resettled in total 2020/21 to 2023/24</b>
Craven	56,832	9.3	19
Hambleton	91,134	14.8	30
Harrogate	160,533	26.1	52
Richmondshire	53,244	8.7	17
Ryedale	54,920	8.9	18
Scarborough	108,736	17.7	35
Selby	89,106	14.5	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>614,505</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>

- 1.6 District Councils would need to ensure that they were able to arrange to provide this supply of housing during their allocated time period. The schedule of charter flights is likely to be known some time in advance of families arriving, providing an opportunity for Housing Officers to have early discussions with national, regional and local housing providers to secure their commitment to the project.

## **2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

- 2.1 The proposal does not relate to a Council priority but rather is a response to a global humanitarian crisis.

## **3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:**

### **3.1 Risk in approving the recommendation(s)**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Implication</b>	<b>Gross Prob</b>	<b>Gross Imp</b>	<b>Gross Total</b>	<b>Preventative action</b>	<b>Net Prob</b>	<b>Net Imp</b>	<b>Net Total</b>
Earmarked housing remains vacant for an extended period should a family not want to come to Hambleton.	The current scheme pays for an 8 week void period, there is an expectation this will continue in the new scheme. If this needs to be extended the Council will need to pay for the extra void period time.	4	3	12	Consider offering the property to another homeless client to avoid further void costs and/or have two families in mind so that the second one can be accommodated quite quickly thereafter thus reducing void loss/expense to the LA.	2	2	4

### **3.2 The key risk is in not approving the recommendation(s) as shown below:-**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Implication</b>	<b>Gross Prob</b>	<b>Gross Imp</b>	<b>Gross Total</b>	<b>Preventative action</b>	<b>Net Prob</b>	<b>Net Imp</b>	<b>Net Total</b>
Council publicly identified as not helping with the crisis.	Harmful to the reputation of the Council.	4	4	16	Communications to mitigate adverse publicity.	3	4	12

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council that arise from this proposed scheme. Costs associated with the resettlement of refugees are expected to be met by Government grant. NYCC will act as the accountable body for the receipt and spending of this grant.
- 4.2 The proposed scheme does however have indirect cost implications for the Council which include staff time.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 This report seeks to amend the existing Memorandum of Understanding and other agreements with participating Councils and partners from the existing SVP/VCRS schemes to reflect the name of the new scheme; the substance of the MOU and agreements will not change.

## **6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 6.1 A key element of the local response will be to work in partnership to tackle equality and diversity issues.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- (1) supports the principle of a North Yorkshire participation in the global resettlement scheme, subject to adequate funding by the Home Office, to enable resettlement of 200 refugees in total across North Yorkshire from 2020/21 to 2023/34;
- (2) agrees that this Council's commitment to this scheme shall be to accommodate about 30 people; and
- (3) delegates authority to the Director of Economy and Planning to agree to renew the partnership agreement with North Yorkshire County Council, the 6 District Councils within the County and Migration Yorkshire.

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**Background papers:** Report to Cabinet 15 March 2016 'Resettlement of Syrian Refugees'

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