

Decision under Delegated Powers

The creation of the post of Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Coordinator

Officer Requesting Decision:

Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing – Alison Simmons

Officer Making the Decision:

Chief Executive – Geoff Parker

Recommendation:

That approval is given to create a new full time (37 hrs per week), 12 months fixed term contract Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Coordinator at salary grade SO1, reporting to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing with effect from the start date of the successful applicant.

Reason:

The Districts and Boroughs Chief Executives agreed on the 3rd March 2016 that Charnwood would take the lead and coordination role for Leicestershire and Rutland for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

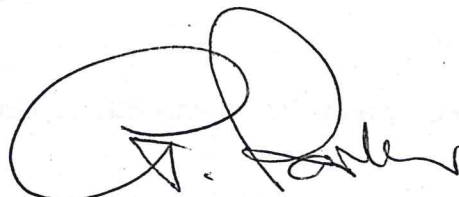
The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Coordinator will be the lead officer for the coordination of the Scheme; responsible for leading on all aspects of the programme, including managing support contracts and volunteers; negotiating with statutory and voluntary service providers; offering a supportive and welcoming environment.

Authority for Decision:

Section 8 of the Council Constitution contains authority for the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) to agree changes to the establishment, within budget and without major service or policy implications, affecting no more than five posts (irrespective of their post number) in any single case (item 6 on page 8-4 of the Constitution).

Decision and Date:

APPROVED



4 MAY 2016

Background:

The Government commenced the expansion of the existing Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to resettle 20,000 Syrians in need of protection during this Parliament. Phase 1 of the Scheme operated until 31st December 2015 and roughly 100 Syrian Refugees were resettled in the East Midlands during Phase 1 in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and Leicester.

The Home Office is now considering the approach to a more sustained programme in Phase 2; in conjunction with the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership, are currently seeking to identify those local authorities who wish to participate in Phase 2 and the numbers that authorities anticipate they can support.

Government funding is available and intended to cover a range of measures to assist the support and orientation of this group of people.

The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme is a voluntary scheme and the local authority determines the number of refugees that can be assisted through the scheme in their local authority area.

Cabinet endorsed the recommendations of the Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme Working Group to agree to the provision of two properties (up to ten people) from the Private Rented Sector for the next five years to support the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

The Districts and Boroughs Chief Executives agreed on the 3rd March 2016 that Charnwood would take the lead and coordination role for Leicestershire and Rutland for the Resettlement Scheme.

Work has started to look at how the Resettlement Scheme will be coordinated across the County and Rutland. The funding for the initial set up costs will have to be met by the Districts and Boroughs until the arrival of the refugees, when claims can be submitted for Home Office funding. The District and Boroughs participating in the scheme will contribute to the Coordinators role until the Home Office funding has been received.

A job description and person specification has been drawn up and was evaluated by the Job Evaluation Panel on 25th April 2016; the outcome of the evaluation was that the post be graded as SO1.

Summary of Advice Provided by HR:

Anna Cairns (27/4/16)

This post has been evaluated by a JE Panel and was scored as a SO1 post.

Financial Implications:

Cabinet approved a budget for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme up to a maximum of £85,200 from the Housing Needs budget to set up the scheme. The Council are entitled to claim £8,520 per person and, based on providing support for up to ten people in the borough, will be eligible to reclaim £85,200.

The budget will be repaid once the refugees arrive in the borough and claims are made to the Home Office.

The cost of the post will be between £35,100 and £37,500 of this budget + £1,400 essential car allowance, to be paid for from the Home Office funding.

Risk Management:

Risk Identified:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Risk Management Actions Planned:

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Coordinator
Job Description and Person Specification

