

Individual Member Decision Record



This form records an individual Member decision and is published in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Decision Maker:	Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council
Lead Officers:	Suzan Harrington, Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning / June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services
Title of Decision:	Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation Scheme
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Type of Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Key decision <input type="checkbox"/> Non key decision discharging (or connected to the discharge of) an Executive function <input type="checkbox"/> Specific delegation from Council or Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Grant of permission / licence <input type="checkbox"/> Affecting the rights of an individual <input type="checkbox"/> Awarding a contract or incurring expenditure which materially affects the financial position of the Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision under urgency
Details of decision:	<p>A Ministerial Letter was sent to Local Authority Leaders and Chief Executives on 3 June 2021 seeking support the effective integration of all those LES who choose to come to the UK.</p> <p>The attached report sets out the scope of the scheme and seeks approval to support the governments accelerated relocation locally employed staff (LES) who have been supporting the UK in Afghanistan. The government have been running a scheme to relocate Afghan former LES to the UK since 2013 but following the announcement that NATO military forces will withdraw from Afghanistan, they intend to accelerate the pace of relocations under the scheme. North Yorkshire</p>

	<p>have agreed to participate in the scheme and this decision seeks approval to enter into an agreement with North Yorkshire County Council to support this programme.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That as the matter is urgent, and the decision cannot await a full meeting of the Executive due to the need to put in place arrangements for Afghan LES arrivals in July 2021 the Leader agrees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. to participate in the Afghan LES Relocation Scheme, as requested by the Home Office and in partnership with NYCC; II. that the Council’s commitment to this scheme shall be in the region of 10 people (2 families); III. to give authority to enter into a new agreement with North Yorkshire County Council and the other relevant District Council’s concerning for this scheme; and IV. to note that the key role of the Council within this scheme shall be facilitating the sourcing of suitable accommodation. Costs associated with this shall be paid for by Central Government Grant funding. This is administered by North Yorkshire County Council. The Director of Corporate Services and Commissioning is authorised to apply for and receive the grant.
<p>Reason for decision:</p>	<p>The UK Government is asking for local authority support and assistance to fulfil a moral obligation to support those who have served the UK in circumstances where they have risked their own lives and where their lives are now at even greater risk of being lost because of reprisal attacks by armed insurgents in Afghanistan.</p>
<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p>Member Interests: <i>(Name of any Member who has declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision and</i></p>	<p>None declared.</p>

details of any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service if appropriate)	
Legal, Financial or other implications:	<p>The scheme is being fully funded by the Government through grant payable to NYCC.</p> <p>The decision is within the Budget and Policy Framework therefore there is no requirement to consult the Chair of Policy on this occasion.</p> <p>As the decision is a Key Decision and urgent, the Chair of Scrutiny was consulted and agreed that the decision could not be reasonably deferred, and that the decision is genuinely urgent.</p> <p>As the decision is made under urgency powers it is not subject to call-in. The Chief Executive confirms that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and is to be treated as urgent.</p>
Background papers:	<p>Leader's Briefing Report Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation Scheme</p>
Contact details for further information:	<p>Sarah Thompson, Housing Service Manager sthompson@selby.gov.uk</p> <p>June Rothwell, Head of Operational Services jrothwell@selby.gov.uk</p>
Signed:	<p><i>Signature redacted</i></p> <p>Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark Crane</p>
Date of Decision:	24 June 2021