

Agenda Item No.4

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**24 May 2016**

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director – Economy,  
Transport and Communities

**SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RESETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR  
DERBYSHIRE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval for the establishment of two temporary posts to support development of a Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) Scheme in Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** In September 2015, the Prime Minister announced that the UK would accept 20,000 Syrian refugees in response to the crisis unfolding across Syria and Europe. Many UK local authorities have already responded positively to the crisis and in Derbyshire, agencies have formed a Syrian VPR Scheme Partnership Group, chaired by the County Council's Assistant Chief Executive, to look at the viability of a scheme for Derbyshire.

Partners have agreed in principle to develop a scheme and have asked that Derbyshire County Council co-ordinates the development and implementation of the scheme. To help shape and design the scheme, and to coordinate activity on behalf of the Partnership Group, the Council is seeking to recruit two posts. These posts would be temporary initially for a period of 12 months, would be based with the County Council's Community Safety Unit and would form part of the wider Safer Derbyshire Partnership. A Safer Derbyshire structure chart is attached at Appendix A. It is expected that the schemes will commence within the six month period.

The two posts would be; a Syrian VPR Scheme Resettlement Coordinator, reporting directly to the Assistant Director Community Safety and indirectly to the Assistant Chief Executive and the Partnership Group This post has been evaluated at Grade 12 and; a Project Support Officer, reporting directly to the Resettlement Coordinator post. This post has been evaluated at Grade 8. The total cost for both posts with oncosts for a period of six months equates to approximately £37,000.

The posts are essential to the effective development of a scheme, but a full report outlining the initial development, together with details of longer term plans, resources and implications will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of these two posts will ultimately be met from the national funding paid to local areas and, as such, will become self-funding, but this funding can only be claimed once refugees have arrived in the area. The posts therefore require some pump priming in order to develop and establish a scheme for Derbyshire. It is proposed that funding for the first six months is provided by the County Council, with some support from partners. To date, a commitment of £14,000 has been made towards the cost of these posts by partners, as follows:

- Derbyshire Dales District Council - £5,000
- Derbyshire Constabulary - £2,000
- North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - £2,000
- Chesterfield Borough Council - £2,000
- Erewash CCG - £1,000
- Hardwick CCG - £1,000
- South Derbyshire CCG - £2,000

Derbyshire County Council would cover the remaining costs of the two newly established posts for six months, approximately £25,000, and this would include other setup costs such as computer hardware. Accommodation/desks, etc have already been identified in the Safer Derbyshire Partnership.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The temporary contracts referred to in the report will, at this stage, be for the purposes of developing the scheme as set out in the report.

(5) **Human Resources Considerations** The two posts will be established on a temporary basis initially, but with an intention to become permanent if the outline of the scheme is agreed and subsequently implemented. Due to the nature of the role and the required skills and experience for the Coordinator Post, it is unlikely that these can be met from within the County Council. In addition, there is some pressure from both national Government and regional East Midlands Councils to progress development of the Scheme in Derbyshire and, as such, an external advert for the Coordinator Post, in the first instance, would be desirable to prevent further delay.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Communities Department. Officer contact details – Sally Goodwin, extension 38295.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member

9.1 Endorses the proposal for the County Council to act as the coordinating body for the Derbyshire Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

9.2 Supports the recruitment of two posts, for a period of 12 months initially, to design and develop a Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme for Derbyshire.

**Ian Stephenson**  
**Chief Executive**

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy,**  
**Transport and Communities**

# Safer Derbyshire Partnership

Co-Located County Hall

