



## Surrey Heath Borough Council Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers

### Urgent Action Form – Executive Function

Consultation by Chief Executive or Executive Head of Service or Head of Service involved with relevant Portfolio Holder or Leader of the Council and Chairman (or Vice Chairman) of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

#### The Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation Scheme

To Councillor	Cllr Shaun Garrett
Portfolio Holder for	Support and safeguarding
Proposal	<p>1.1 To initially offer support to 4 families under the Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) Relocation scheme and to increase this to 5 families if further accommodation becomes available.</p> <p>1.2 The families to be initially located in temporary accommodation at Lawrence Lodge in Camberley while more permanent accommodation is identified.</p> <p>1.3 To Appoint a Family Support Coordinator on a 12-month fixed term contract on the Surrey Heath Salary Grade of SH 4, £31,797 to £37,353 (inclusive of on costs at 29%)</p>
Background	<p>2.1 Locally Employed Staff (LES) have been supporting the British Forces in Afghanistan in a variety of roles since 2013. They have served our Country well often working in challenging and dangerous conditions for both them and their families.</p> <p>2.2 In recognition of their commitment and bravery the UK Government has been running a scheme to support Afghan (LES). In April 2021, this was extended to include a relocation scheme to the UK those who qualify and choose to relocate to the UK with their families are not expected to return to Afghanistan. After completing five years limited leave, they can apply for permanent residence in the UK, free of charge, ensuring that they can settle here permanently and continue to build their lives and future here.</p> <p>2.3 People who are relocated under the scheme are supported for a four-month period by a local authority who will meet the family/individual at the arrival airport and take responsibility for</p>

	<p>them from arrival. The local authority is responsible for providing a four-month integration package which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Reception arrangements upon arrival at the airport including handover from flight escorts and welcome briefing</li> <li>b. Accommodation</li> <li>c. A package of advice and assistance covering employment, welfare benefits, housing, health, education, and utility supply</li> <li>d. Registration with GPs and local Job Centre Plus including receipt of a National Insurance Number</li> <li>e. Assistance in securing school places for school aged children</li> <li>f. Cash support.</li> </ul> <p>2.4 A flight is arriving in the UK on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 with a second group of families. We are advised that all families wishing to relocate will arrive in the UK through July and August of this year.</p> <p>2.5 Members will be aware that on 9th February 2016 the Executive agreed to support the Government's UK Resettlement Scheme by securing support for 10 families. The team is currently supporting 5 families under this scheme and our partners at Runnymede Borough Council are supporting 4 families. Another family will be arriving in 6-weeks' time. Any support provided under the Afghan LES relocation scheme will be in addition to our commitment under the existing scheme</p>
Options	<p>3.1 The Executive has the option of supporting or not supporting the scheme. If it decides to support the scheme it has the option of deciding on the number of families it wishes to support bearing in mind its other commitments and the availability of suitable accommodation.</p>
Risk of delaying the decision	<p>4.1 This is a humanitarian issue which requires swift and urgent action. The scheme protects the human rights of Afghan Locally Employed Staff who have supported the British Forces deployed in Afghanistan. They now risk persecution and death as British Forces withdraw from the Country.</p> <p>4.2 The families have already started to arrive with the relocation completed in August. We have no time to wait until the next Executive to decide if the Council wishes to support the scheme.</p>

Legal advice	5.1 The relocation scheme will be governed by regulations and guidance from the Home Office.						
Resource implication	<p>6.1 Local authorities are provided with funding to support families through a Grant funding arrangement. Funding was originally for 4 - months but further clarification was issued to Leaders from the Home Office on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Funding is for 12 months.</li> <li>b. Funding now includes an additional payment for ESOL for adults.</li> <li>c. Where families do not travel and another family cannot be matched to the property, void costs can be claimed following the same criteria as with UKRS.</li> <li>d. Exceptional costs can be claimed, following the same criteria as with UKRS.</li> <li>e. An education tariff is not included. The expectation from Treasury is that OGDs pick up additional costs from existing budgets.</li> <li>f. There will not be separate payments for health provisions to clinical commissioning groups. The expectation from Treasury is that OGDs pick up additional costs from existing budgets.</li> <li>g. We have simplified the payment structure, to reduce the administrative burden. There is one tariff rate per person regardless of family size which includes provision for void and set up costs.</li> <li>h. Payment will be claimed in 3 instalments, using the same process as UKRS.</li> <li>i. The payment process will be the same for those entering temporary (bridging) accommodation (with local authority support) with the exception that rent payments will not be payable until the individuals have entered their longer-term accommodation.</li> </ul> <p>J A funding instruction and an updated statement of requirements will be issued shortly.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="520 1713 1399 1982"> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="520 1713 1399 1780"><b>Accommodation</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="520 1780 815 1924">Rent (up to 4 months or when in receipt of benefit)</td> <td data-bbox="815 1780 1399 1924">£15 per person, per day</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="520 1924 1399 1982"><b>Integration</b></th> </tr> </table>	<b>Accommodation</b>		Rent (up to 4 months or when in receipt of benefit)	£15 per person, per day	<b>Integration</b>	
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	To provide integration support (includes element for void and set up costs for accommodation)		Per person rate		
			£10,500		
	<b>Cash support</b>				
	Weekly cash support rates (up to 4 months or when in receipt of benefit)	Single (under 25)	Single (25 or over)	Couples	Child (under 18)
		£59.20	£74.70	£117.40	37.75
<b>ESOL provision</b>					
£850 per adult (who requires it)					
<p>6.2 A major difficulty for the Council in supporting the scheme is that the Council does not own any housing stock. The Housing Services Manager has been in urgent discussions with Accent. It has been agreed that the Temporary Accommodation at Lawrence Lodge in Camberley could be used to initially accommodate up to four families. This will be used as bridging accommodation while the team works with the families to identify longer term accommodation.</p> <p>6.3 The resettlement scheme is delivered through the Family Support Team which works in Partnership with Runnymede Borough Council with Surrey Heath Borough Council being the Lead authority. There are two Family Support Coordinators working on the current resettlement scheme who are supervised by a Senior Family Support Coordinator. With another family arriving in 6-weeks' time the team is fully committed and would not be able to support the Afghan LES Relocation scheme without an additional Family Support Coordinator. The coordinators are appointed on the Surrey Heath pay scale SH 4, £31,797 to £37,353 (inclusive of on costs at 29%). It is expected that these costs will be covered by the integration support element of the grant.</p>					
Contact Officer for further information	Tim Pashen – Executive Head Community <a href="mailto:Tim.pashen@surreyheath.gov.uk">Tim.pashen@surreyheath.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01276 707351 Mob: 07774727861				

Decision Making Officer	Tim Pashen Executive Head Community
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Signed Tim Pashen – by email

Dated 5/7/21

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I agree with the above action proposed.

Signed Cllr Shaun Garrett - by email

Dated 5/7/21

**Portfolio Holder for Support and Safeguarding**

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On behalf of the Scrutiny Committee, I agree with the above action proposed. I recognise that if this decision is taken by the appropriate officer as a matter of urgency, there will be no opportunity for the decision to be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee before its implementation.

Signed Cllr Sashi Mylvaganam - by email

Dated 5/7/21

**Chairman of Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee**