

<b>REPORT TO</b>	<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>
Cabinet	7 September 2016

Report template revised June 2008



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
Syrian Resettlement Programme – Waiver to Contract Procedure Rule	Leader of the Council	Darren Cranshaw	10

## SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Council has agreed with the Home Office and Lancashire County Council to welcome 5 refugee families to South Ribble as part of the Syrian Resettlement Programme. The programme is fully funded by the Government.

As part of the programme the Council must provide the families with the necessary support to effectively integrate into life in the Borough. This support is of a specialist nature because of the individual needs of the families and it is proposed to engage an experienced organisation to deliver this support as the Council does not have the necessary expertise or capacity. It is likely that because of the cost of the support we are looking at high value procurement. Due to the short timescale involved and the exceptional nature of the procurement it is recommended to waive contract procedure rules and that the selection of the specialist organisation be delegated.

This report links with the Council's priority of strong and healthy communities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

1. Paragraph 11 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR) concerning High Value Procurements be waived for the reasons outlined in the report;
2. the appointment of the specialist organisation to provide intensive caseworker support to the families concerned be delegated to the Scrutiny & Performance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council - a further waiver of paragraph 22.4 of CPR be granted to enable this to happen.

## DETAILS AND REASONING

The Government has expanded the resettlement programme for Syrian refugees with a view to re-settle up to 20,000 refugees over the 5 years of this Parliament.

The Home Office has been in negotiations with local authorities on delivering a resettlement programme, with discussions taking place with Lancashire County Council and district councils.

Lancashire Chief Executives Group agreed on 15 January 2016 a proposal to resettle up to 500 refugees over 5 years, with Lancashire County Council acting a lead authority. As part of these discussions South Ribble agreed to resettle up to 5 families during the current financial year.

The Syrian Resettlement Programme is fully funded by the Government.

Officers have been working with the Home Office, Lancashire County Council, other Lancashire districts and partner organisation as part of the programme such as the NHS, registered providers/housing associations and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

Over recent weeks the Council has received more detailed information on the families that will be received in South Ribble and their individual needs. The Council will arrange for the families to be welcomed to the Borough, provided with furnished homes and the intensive support needed to help them integrate into local communities. Lancashire County Council will provide support around education, co-ordinate public health and access to health services. Government departments will assist with finding jobs and access benefits. It is anticipated that the families will arrive in the UK for resettlement before the end of September 2016.

Due to the complex needs of the families and importance of ensuring that they integrate effectively into local communities it is proposed to appoint an external specialist provider to support and assist families in settling into their new communities. The intensive caseworker support will also include Arabic translation services. The market for such specialist provision is extremely limited and the Council has been working with Preston City Council to consider potential organisations able to carry out the specialist support and mobilise in the extremely short time available.

The cost of this specialist support is likely to be classed as high level procurement (above £75,000). As mentioned earlier, the costs are fully funded by the Government. Due to the extremely short timescale available and specialist nature of the procurement it is recommended that contract procedure rule number 11 be waived.

Furthermore it is recommended that the appointment of the specialist provider be delegated to the Scrutiny & Performance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council for the reasons of speed as the Syrian refugees are expected before the end of September 2016. A formal legal agreement will be entered into with the specialist organisation and the outcomes monitored.

## **WIDER IMPLICATIONS**

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<p>The Syrian Resettlement Programme is fully funded by the Government. Funding is set at a standard capital rate of £8,520 per refugee, with additional monies for children ages 3-4 (£2,250) and children 5-18 (£4,500). Lancashire County Council will be the direct recipient of the Government funding and funding will be re-claimed from the County Council at agreed intervals in accordance with the legal agreement.</p> <p>The waiver relates to the procurement of intensive caseworker support services for the families to be resettled in the Borough. The procurement is cost neutral as this and all other costs in relation to the resettlement programme will be fully funded by the Government.</p>
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<b>LEGAL</b>	<p>It is considered that there are exceptional circumstances here due to the specialist nature of the support required and short timescale available. On that basis it is considered appropriate not to undergo a full procurement exercise but to invoke paragraph 39 of the council's CPRs which allows a waiver of relevant provisions (in this case paragraph 11). In particular it is considered that the following paragraphs are relevant here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the nature of the market for the works to be carried out or the goods or services to be provided has been investigated and is demonstrated to be such that a departure from the requirements of the Rules is justifiable; and/or</li> <li>- the contract is for works, supplies or services that are required in circumstances of extreme urgency that could not reasonably have been foreseen.</li> </ul> <p>Ordinarily the award of a high value contract would be a matter for Cabinet. However, for the reasons explained in this report it is considered appropriate to delegate that decision to the Scrutiny and Performance Officer in consultation with the Leader. Due to the exceptional circumstances set out above it is considered also appropriate to waive paragraph 22.4 of the council's CPR's to enable this to happen.</p> <p>The Council will enter into a formal agreement with Lancashire County Council.</p>
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<b>RISK</b>	<p>The full risk assessment forms part of the background papers to this report. The main points for consideration are summarised here:-</p> <p>There are significant risks if the programme is not delivered effectively to the community cohesion within the Borough, which is being mitigated through intensive specialist caseworker support provided by the proposed specialist organisation. There is also a risk that we do not meet the individual needs of the refugee families, which is being mitigated through the project planning and partnership working with agencies in the public and voluntary sectors.</p>
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<b>THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY</b>	<p>There is no adverse impact on the protected characteristics. The intensive caseworker support will include Arabic translation to ensure services are accessible. As the project develops this will be under continuous review as will ensuring the programme considers community cohesion outcomes.</p>
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**OTHER (see below)**

<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Risk Assessment